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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1244)

Name of Candidate	Shikhar		
Medium Eng./Hindi	Eng	Registration Number	413063
Center	Pune	Date	15-07-2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
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8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
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14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में सूचनाएं भरना आवश्यक है (नाम, प्रश्न–पत्र कोड, विद्यार्थी क्रमांक आदि)।
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH & HINDI**
   इसमें बीस प्रश्न हैं अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में छपे हैं।
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
   सभी प्रश्न अनिवार्य हैं।
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
   प्रत्येक प्रश्न/भाग के अंक उसके सामने दिए गए हैं।
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
   प्रश्नों के उत्तर उसी माध्यम में लिखे जाने चाहिए जिसका उल्लेख आपके प्रवेश पत्र में किया गया है और उस माध्यम का स्पष्ट उल्लेख प्रश्न–सह–उत्तर (क्यूसीए) पुस्तिका के मुख्य पृष्ठ पर अंकित निर्दिष्ट स्थान पर किया जाना चाहिए। उल्लिखित माध्यम के अतिरिक्त अन्य किसी माध्यम में लिए गए उत्तर पर कोई अंक नही मिलेगे।
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
   प्रश्नों में शब्द सीमा, जहाँ विनिर्दिष्ट है, का अनुसरण किया जाना चाहिए।
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
   उत्तर पुस्तिका में खाली छोड़ा हुआ पृष्ठ या उसके अंश को स्पष्ट रूप से काटा जाना चाहिए।

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Discuss the need of an Independent Fiscal Council (IFC) in bringing about transparency and accountability in fiscal processes in India. (150 words) 10

भारत में राजकोषीय प्रक्रियाओं में पारदर्शिता और जवाबदेही का समावेश करने हेतु एक स्वतंत्र राजकोषीय परिषद (IFC) की आवश्यकता की चर्चा कीजिए।

15th Finance Commission, NK Singh proposed the need of IFC

Need

① Government is often accused of inflating fiscal figures like budged

② CAG report in 2017 also pointed out that tax department managed data to meet targets

③ Controversies over PLFS data, CSO back series data etc.

Bringing Accountability

① IFC will be bound by targets (Target oriented approach)

② Regular reporting to Parliament

③ Responsible for not meeting target

④ Open to public scrutiny through RTI

⑤ Open to annual audits of CAG will bring accountability

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Transparency

① Independent decision making, free from executive

② Regular report on targets, policies etc over the public domain

③ Improved functioning with minimum bureaucratic control

④ Check rising incidences of
- Cess and surcharge levied by Central Government
- Rising State debts to over 24%
- Non adherence to targets set under FRBM act

⑤ Single body, instead of multiple regulators like RBI, Finance Ministry etc will increase both transparency and accountability

| No need yet for IFC |

① Additional cost of running the body

② May lead to overlap of jurisdictions with RBI

③ Difficult to manage varied structures

④ Difficult Centre-State coordination

IFC will go a long way in improving India's fiscal policy and controlling rising violation of fiscal targets.

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2. Recognizing the potential of exports in generating employment, a number of steps need to be taken to address India's weakening export competitiveness. Analyze. (150 words) 10

रोजगार सृजन हेतु निर्यात क्षेत्र की क्षमताओं की पहचान करते हुए, भारत की कमजोर होती निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धा को संबोधित करने हेतु कई कदम उठाए जाने की आवश्यकता है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Indian exports brings with it huge economic opportunity, one of them being employment.

Potential of exports in generating employment:

① Agricultural Exports
- Helps farmers
- Employment for landless
- Employment for women

② MSMEs
- Account for 40% of India's export
- Huge source of employment, especially in rural

③ services export.
- Employment to IT sector

④ Manufacturing export
- Provide employment to majority of population as in China

Steps

① Increasing Awareness ~~for~~ related to customs and clearances, especially for MSMEs

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3.

② Export incentives in the form of tax exemption
③ Simplifying custom clearances
④ Address increasing export cost by developing efficient logistics
⑤ Improving agriculture exports through cold chain infrastructure, warehousing
⑥ Skilling the youth to generate high value exports

Steps taken
- Logistics improvement like Jal Vikas Project
- Agricultural Export Policy
- MEIS and TEIS
- Foreign Trade policy 2015-20

Challenges remain
① Cumbersome customs
② Legislative restriction like Minimum Export Price, stockholding limits
③ Competition from countries.
• Eg Vietnam in textile exports
④ Agriculture suffers due to Phytosanitary barriers
⑤ Rising Protectionism

India must improve upon exports to develop into $5 trillion economy

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3. Highlighting the main features of National Mineral Policy, 2019, discuss how it can help in ensuring sustainable and responsible mining.

(150 words) 10

राष्ट्रीय खनिज नीति, 2019 की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, चर्चा कीजिए कि यह संधारणीय और उत्तरदायित्वपूर्ण खनन सुनिश्चित करने में कैसे सहायता कर सकती है।

National Mineral Policy makes it easier to tap into India's Mineral wealth

Features
- Right of first refusal
- Opening of blocks reserved for public sector
- To give mining infrastructure status
- Encouraging mergers and acquisition
- Promote sustainable mining

It will help in:

1. Encourage private investments in mineral sector
2. Infrastructure status would help access loans
3. Rationilized tariff policy will improve better returns

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(4) Will lead to exploration of new areas

(5) Sustainable mining
- By ensuring proper utilization of District Mineral Funds (DMF)
- Locals are not exploited or forcible displaced
- Checking pollution from mining

Challenges remain

(1) Public sector dominance

(2) Illegal mining,
eg. Rat Hole mining in Meghalaya

(3) Lack of monitoring agency
- As a result, DMF remain under utilized
- Locals are forcibly displaced
- No check as to whether Environmental norms are followed

(4) Private sector is troubled
- Lack of funds
- Old machinery
- Lack of expertise

Mining policy is a novel way to develop India into a "Mineral hub"

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4. Highlighting the salient features of the PM JI-VAN Yojana, analyze how it can assist in achieving the vision and goals of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. (150 words) 10

"प्रधानमंत्री जी-वन योजना" की मुख्य विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, विश्लेषण कीजिए कि यह जैव ईंधन राष्ट्रीय नीति, 2018 की दृष्टि और लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में किस प्रकार सहायक हो सकती है।

PM Ji-VAN Yojana is an initiative to tap into bioethanol sector.

Salient features

1. Viability Gap funding over ₹5000 crore for 2G bioethanol projects
2. Mandatory purchase of fuel from producers by OMCs
3. Training farmers in bioethanol production

How it will assist in Biofuel policy.

1. Increase availability of biofuel
   - As non-availability has hampered its usage
2. Help secure alternative income for farmers
3. Increased blending of bioethanol with fuels
4. Reduction in ~~greeh~~ greenhouse gases

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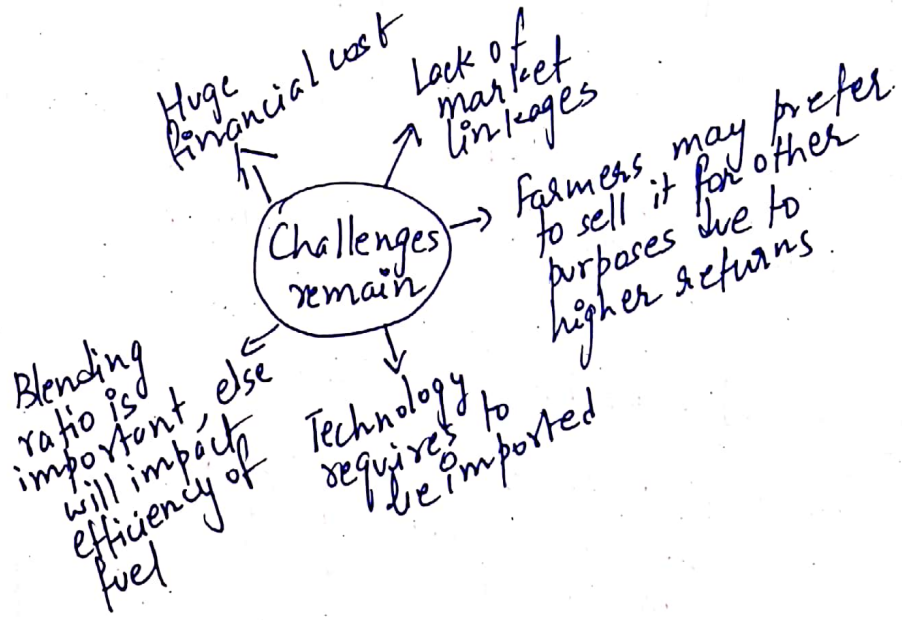
(5) Curb import of fuels
- It ~~had~~ has led to huge CAD

(6) Decentralized fuel production
- As bioethanol plants will be set up in rural areas

(7) No pressure on food security as it is produced through non foods



PM Ji-VAN should be expanded as it will not only help improve farmer's income, play a role in doubling it by 2022 but also help India achieve emission reduction targets under INDC

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5. Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) provides an alternative to capital and chemical intensive agriculture currently being practiced in India. Analyze. (150 words) 10

जीरो बजट प्राकृतिक कृषि (ZBNF), भारत में वर्तमान समय में प्रचलित पूंजी और रसायन गहन कृषि का एक विकल्प प्रदान करती है। विश्लेषण कीजिए।

Zero Budget Natural farming is a farming method, wherein cost of farming is zero through use of traditional methods.

It is being practiced in Karnataka, Andhra.

An alternative

① Less capital intensive
- Requires fewer machines and agricultural systems
- Reduces loan requirement for farmers
- Less labour required
- Less expenditure on developing infrastructure like irrigation system
- Will reduce government's fertilizer subsidy

② Less chemical intensive
- Requires zero pesticides / Herbicides
- Promotes organic way of farming, using cow dungs, straws

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- Weed control through traditional means, reducing need for weedicides
- Maintain N:P:K ratio by organic manure like fish cake, in place of urea

Still, not an alternative

- Not a time tested procedure
- Initial production may be low, impacting food security
- Lack of knowledge amongst farmers regarding organic production.
- Fail to adapt to tough conditions like drought and climate change
- Organic farming lacks market linkages
- May not be suitable for degraded and dryland areas which requires huge additional support in the form of inorganic fertilizer

Zero-Budget Natural farming, as announced in 2019 Budget, is a novel way to reduce farming costs. It should be promoted gradually. Sikkim's example should be followed in our way to becoming an organic nation. Also, Andhra's Zero budget farming model should be adopted

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6. Marine life is facing 'irreparable damage' from the millions of tonnes of plastic waste which ends up in the oceans each year. In this context, examine the implications of plastic pollution on marine ecosystem and suggest some measures for addressing this problem. (150 words) 10

समुद्री जीवन, प्रति वर्ष समुद्र में पहुँचने वाले लाखों टन प्लास्टिक कचरे के कारण 'अपूरणीय क्षति' का सामना कर रहा है। इस संदर्भ में, समुद्री पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के प्रभाव का परीक्षण कीजिए और इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

Plastic pollution has major impact on marine biodiversity.

Examples of plastic pollution
- Construction sector → PVC, pipes
- Beauty industry
- Polythenes
- Packaging material

Implications

1. Breaks into microbeads which are highly potent (stays for long)
2. Concentrates wastes into a single area, eg. Great Pacific Gyre
3. Releases toxins which are harmful
4. Marine animals ingest it which damages their health
5. Aid in ocean acidification, coral bleaching.
6. Impedes ocean circulation
7. Affects blue economy potential

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Steps to address

- International collaboration on managing transboundary plastic wastes
- National steps
  - Strict adherence to Plastic waste management rules
  - Tracking point and non point sources of waste
  - Involving civil society to generate awareness.
    Eg. Poonawala initiative to check marine wastes

- Innovative solutions to remove plastics from oceans.
  Eg Wilson tube to collect Pacific garbage
- Promoting non plastics like jute bags

Steps taken

- UNEP H cleanseas campaign
- Blue Flag Certification
  - Chandrabhaga beach, odisha

Checking plastic pollution is a necessity to develop into a 'sustainable marine ecosystem'

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7. Write a short note on the evolution of Bharat Stage norms in India. Also discuss the significance and challenges posed by the planned introduction of BS-VI norms in India from the year 2020. (150 words) 10

भारत में भारत स्टेज मानकों के विकास पर एक संक्षिप्त टिप्पणी लिखिए। साथ ही, वर्ष 2020 से भारत में BS-VI मानकों को योजनाबद्ध रूप से लागू किए जाने के महत्व और उसमें आने वाली चुनौतियों की भी चर्चा कीजिए।

Bharat Stage Norms refer to vehicular emission norms adopted from European system.

Evolution

- BS IV introduced in India by making India specific changes over European system
- Directly, we are moving to BS VI instead of BS V to check rising pollution
- Delhi become first to adopt BSVI
- Mandatory in rest of India from 2020

Significance

- Pollution reduction
  - Reduces sulphur emission
  - Particulate matter reduced by 80%
- Requires minimum engine modification
- Reduce fuel usage as fuels become more efficient.
  - Will help curb CAD due to fuel imports

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- Help India reduce pollution levels in cities like Delhi (Most polluted capital - WHO)
- Help India honour it to international commitments under Paris deal

Challenges remain

- Adopting EV norms in India might not be suitable as conditions in Europe differ
- Will not be sufficient as no. of vehicles are very high in India
- Studies have concluded that household pollution is a major contributor to air pollution, rather than vehicular
- Difficult complionce for the automobile sector

India should promote steps like

- Fastracking e-vehicles
  eg. FAME India scheme
- Curbing number of vehicles
  - Through better public transport
  - Congestion tax
  - Parking tax
  - Odd even formula

Reducing ~~vehicular~~ vehicular pollution is the need of the hour to check rising health cost due to air pollution and protect our human as well as natural capital

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8. What are black holes? Highlight the challenges in imaging a black hole? How were these challenges overcome by the Event Horizon Telescope project? (150 words) 10

ब्लैक होल क्या हैं? ब्लैक होल के चित्रण (इमेजिंग) में आने वाली चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। इवेंट होराइज़न टेलीस्कोप प्रोजेक्ट द्वारा इन चुनौतियों को कैसे दूर किया गया?

Black holes refers to a regions in space where the gravitational forces are so strong that even light cannot escape. A Black hole in an invisible region which traps any object entering it.

As per Einstein's 'theory of relativity', time slows down in a black hole.

Challenges in black hole imaging

- Since light cannot escape, no telescope could image a black hole
- Also, no interstellar mission could image a black hole as
  - None could get near it as it would be trapped by the gravity
  - It is difficult to observe or locate black holes in space

However, first images of black hole we captured by Event Horizon Telescope in Messier galaxy

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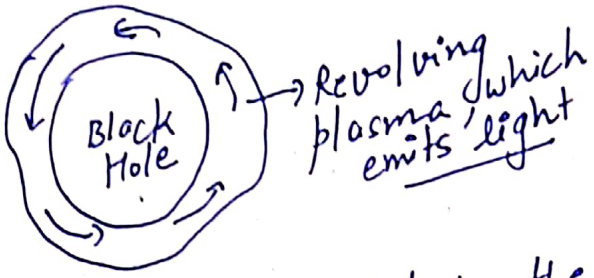
Overcoming the challonge



Instead of imaging the black hole, the telescope imaged the gas rotating around the black hole. The gases which rotated rubbed due to friction and emmitted plasma/ light which was captured as the boundary of Black Hole

The telscope was placed in different places on Earth and the combined image generated the complete black hole. Heavy computing was involved and it took several months to get the final image

Black hole discovery opens up new discussion on life beyond earth, astrophysics. More research should be undertaken, as it will help us gain insight on the "evolution of universe"

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9. While mentioning the objectives of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), discuss the challenges which are hindering the utilization of the ATT to its full potential. (150 words) 10

शस्त्र व्यापार संधि (ATT) के उद्देश्यों का उल्लेख करते हुए, उन चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए जो ATT को इसकी पूर्ण क्षमता से उपयोगित किये जाने में बाधक हैं।

Arms Trade Treaty is to control the trade in conventional weapons.

objectives

- To control the multilateral trade in weapons like guns
- To ensure that weapons are not getting into wrong hands like terrorists
- To check proliferation of weapons which might threaten peace
- To check it's use by civilians.
  Eg. conventional weapons used in lone wolf attacks
- To help nations develop it arms policy.

Challenges

- Lax policies of states like USA which has increased access to conventional weapons ~~to~~ to citizens.
  - Resulting in violence
- Breakdown of treaty
  - USA threatening to pull out

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- No monitoring mechanism to check whether the rules are followed
- Lack of control over rogue of nations like North Korea, where weapons are made freely
- Black marketing of weapons
- No enforcement of treaty, leaving nations to their will

Steps which can be taken

- Independent verification agency like OPCW in case of chemical weapons or IAEA in case of atomic energy
- Penalty for non compliant nation by banning them from arms trade
- International coordination that weapons don't get into wrong hands

Strengthening ATT is a step towards world peace and security.

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10. Threats to internal security of India may be posed both through the communication networks and also to the networks. Discuss. Also, highlight the steps taken by the government in making the networks more secure. (150 words) 10

भारत की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा संचार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से एवं स्वयं संचार नेटवर्कों को खतरा होने, दोनों ही प्रकार से हो सकता है। चर्चा कीजिए। साथ ही, नेटवर्कों को अधिक सुरक्षित बनाने हेतु सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों पर प्रकाश डालिए।

Threats to internal security has manifested in various forms

- Naxalism
- Cross border terrorism ~~like~~ aided by Pakistan
- Separatists

Threat to communication network

- Jamming of communication lines which will make communication within intelligence agencies difficult
- Interception of communication channel will reveal critical information to terrorists
- Damaging communication will hamper contact with the affected population, reducing their rescue prospects

Threats through communication network

- Visible during Mumbai attacks where terrorists coordinated ~~thro~~ through Voice over Protocol (VoIP)

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- Media communications during attacks like Mumbai revealed security locations to the terrorists

- Other challenges as well
  - Failure of intelligence to intercept communications
  - Lack of cyber specialists
  - Poor coordination / communication between different security agencies
    - Visible during Mumbai attack

Steps taken

- CCTN network
- NATGRID to integrate communication system into a national grid
- Use of (Universal Service Obligation Fund) to provide communication to remote areas.
- Military satellites and IRNSS to improve communications.

Internal security has to be strengthened to maintain our peace and prosperity especially in the light of ~~the~~ heightened threats from China and Pakistan

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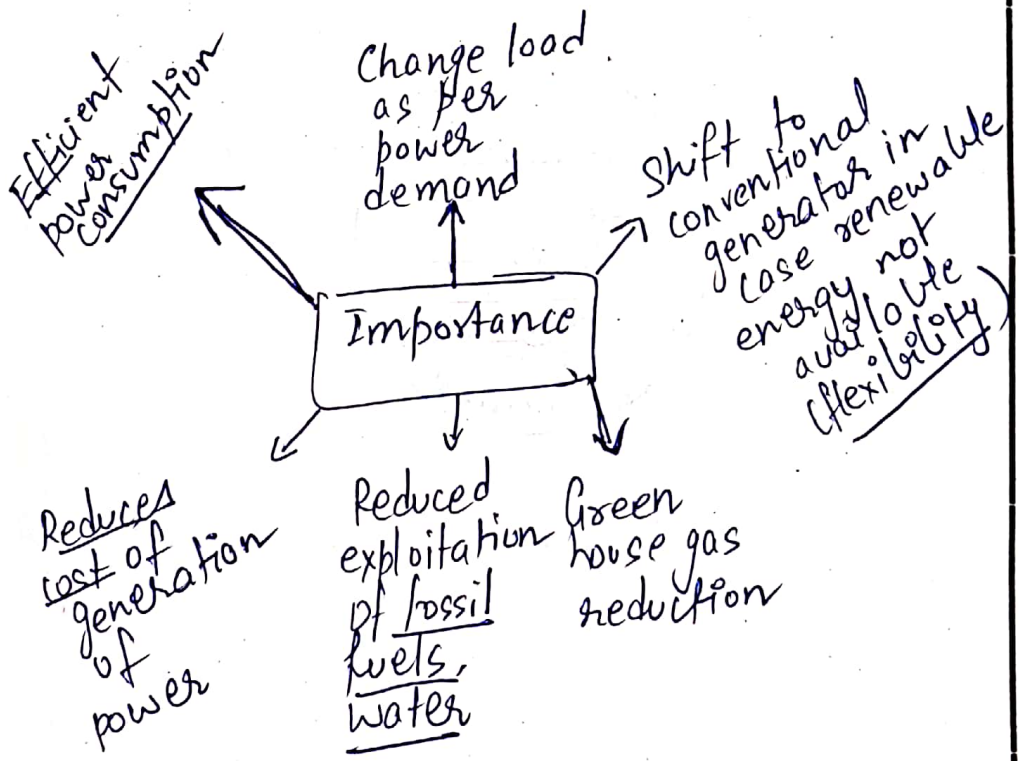
11. Highlight the importance and challenges related to integration of Variable Renewable Energy (VRE) in India. Mention some steps that can be taken for its smooth integration with the synchronized Indian grid. **(250 words) 15**

भारत में परिवर्तनीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (VRE) के एकीकरण के महत्व और इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डालिए। ऐसे कुछ कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए जो समक्रमिक (सिंक्रनाइज्ड) भारतीय ग्रिड के साथ इसके सहज एकीकरण के लिए उठाए जा सकते हैं।

Indian aims to increase Renewable sector to 175 GW by 2022



However, some challenges remain

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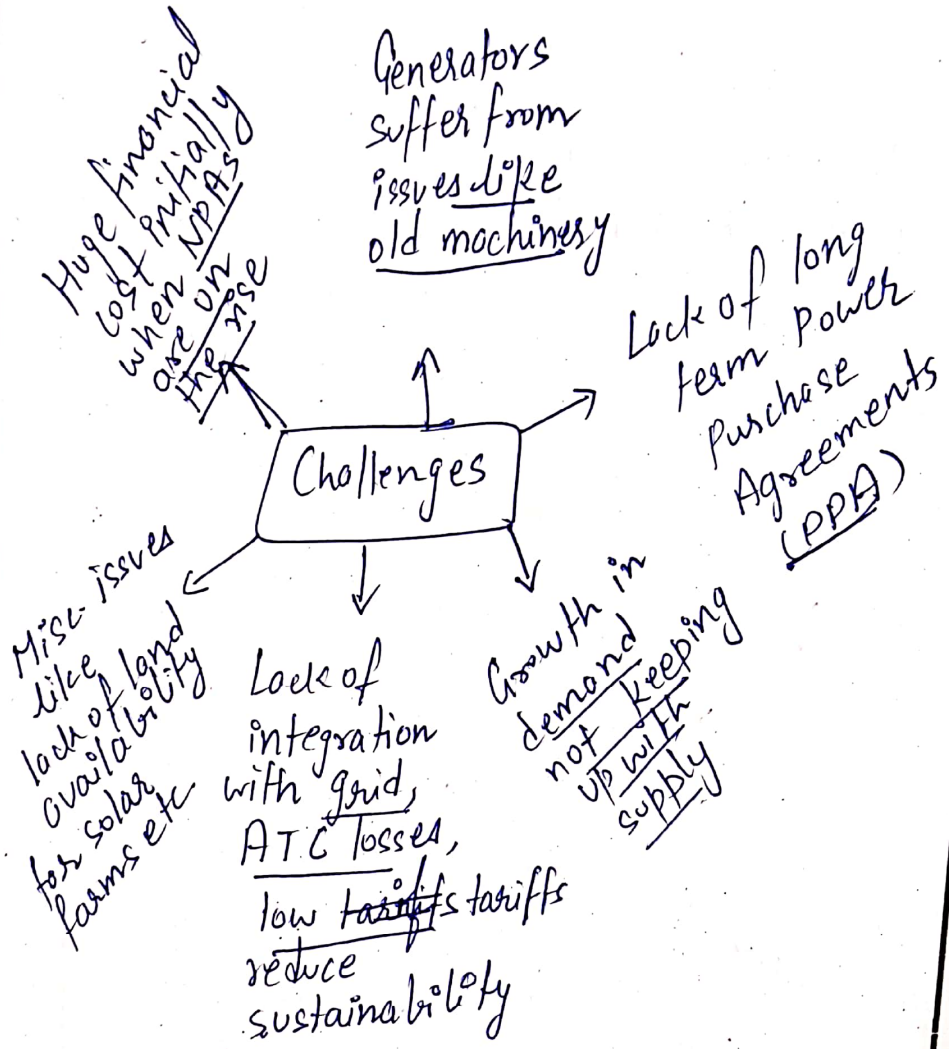

Steps taken

- National Solar-Wind Hybrid energy policy.

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Further steps

- Long term power purchase agreements (PPA)
- Replacing old generators with new ones, VGF for new ones
- Tax incentives for setting up plants, state should provide for land acquisition
- Rationalizing Tariff structure. Draft Electricity Act also suggest so
- Tackling NPAs through UDAY scheme
- Technology like Smart meter, smart grid

Reviving & Integrating VRE will help us achieve energy security

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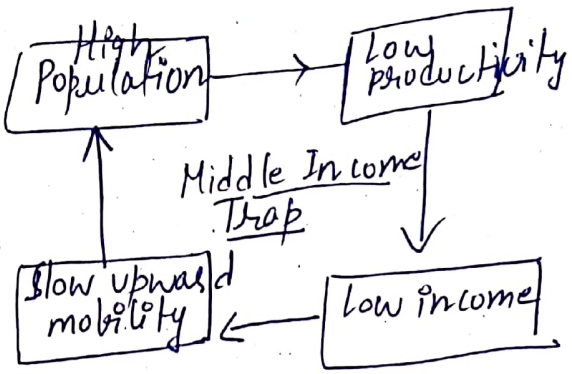
12. There have been arguments that India could fall into a 'middle income trap'. Explaining the phenomenon, highlight the reasons behind such arguments. How can India avoid it? **(250 words) 15**

ऐसे तर्क दिए गए हैं कि भारत 'मध्यम आय पाश' में फंस सकता है। इस परिघटना की व्याख्या करते हुए, ऐसे तर्कों के लिए उत्तरदायी कारणों पर प्रकाश डालिए। भारत इससे किस प्रकार बच सकता है?

Middle Income Trap is a scenario where the country is unable to transition into higher income slab.

Eg. it has been happening in Brazil and South Africa.

~~Rea~~



Reasons

- Increasing population
  - Burdens limited resources, reduces income per capita
- ~~B~~ Stagnant agriculture growth
  - As a result, 50% population is deprived

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- India's peculiar growth
  - Direct transition to service sector, instead of manufacturing sector which is a major source of employment
- Job-skill mismatch
  - Lack of high paying jobs
- Lack of skills
  - As per Tech Mahindra, CEO, 90% IT graduates unemployable
- High informal economy
  - 84% workers are informal. Hence, they fail to demand higher wages
- Slow ~~lower~~ upward social mobility
  - Lower strata lacks health, education etc., which slows their upward mobility.
- High inequality
  - As per Oxfam, 1% Indians own 60% wealth
- MSME trouble
  - MSME's, which are major source of employment face credit issues, old machinery etc.

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Steps

- Improving agriculturing productivity
  - APMC reforms
  - Training of farmers
  - Creating non-farm jobs to reduce pressure on land
- Improving manufacturing sector
- Capacity building of lower strata in terms of health, education etc.
- Skill development through
  - PMKVY
  - Skill India mission
- Educational reforms, industry-academia partnerships through MoUs
- formalization of economy
  - Eg. PM Rozgar protsahan yojona

India must act to grow into a higher ~~middle~~ income nation to ensure inclusive growth'.

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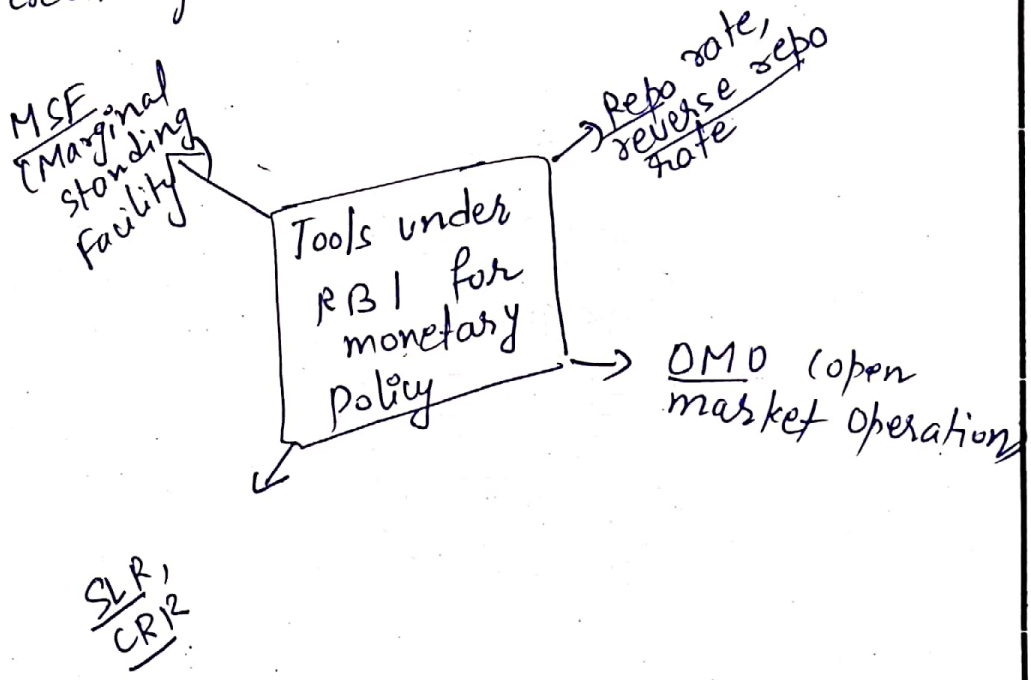
13. Highlighting its importance, discuss the major issues that plague effective monetary policy transmission in India. Also, mention the steps taken by RBI to improve it. (250 words) 15

भारत में मौद्रिक नीति संचरण के महत्व पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, उन प्रमुख मुद्दों पर चर्चा कीजिए जो इसकी प्रभाविता को बाधित करते हैं। साथ ही, इसमें सुधार के लिए RBI द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

Monetary policy refers to steps to increase credit growth in an economy.



Challenges in Policy transmission

① Huge informal economy
- They donot depend on banking channels for credit support
- Black market

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- Bank's inaction
  - Banks fail to transmit policy cuts due to loss in revenue
  - Banks donot depend much on borrowings from RBI
  - Bank's source of income is public money, which does not depend on RBI policy
  - High NPAs also make bank reluctant

- RBI's limits
  - RBI lacks authority to force action by banks

- Bond market
  - Bond market in India remain underdeveloped

- Government policies
  - Populist policies like loan waiver impacts RBI's policy

- Public apathy
  - Public fail to pressurize banks to transfer rate cuts due to lack of awareness

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Steps taken by RBI

- Increasing instances of Moral Suasion and penalty by RBI
- Application of new norms
  - Linking policy rates to External Benchmark.
  - Dollar swap to inject money as a new tool
  - Credit control through incremental CRR, CCBC (Capital Conservation Buffer)
- RBI to reduce Repo rates by 25 basis points
- MCLR based lending to make it more reflective of RBI's monetary policy
- MPC to manage monetary policy

Effective Monetary Policy transmission will help in credit growth and maintaining fiscal stability

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14. Highlight the constraints faced by rainfed agriculture in India. Discuss some agronomic practices that can be adopted for stabilizing agricultural production in rainfed areas. (250 words) 15

भारत में वर्षा सिंचित कृषि में आने वाली बाधाओं पर प्रकाश डालिए। वर्षा सिंचित क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन को स्थायित्व प्रदान करने हेतु अपनाई जा सकने वाली कुछ कृषि-वैज्ञानिक पद्धतियों की चर्चा कीजिए।

More than 50% of agriculture is rainfed.

Contribution of rainfed agriculture
- 60% of agricultural GDP
- More than 50% of farm output, livestock GDP

Constraints
- Policy bias towards irrigated agriculture
  - Most of goverment schemes like GM crops, HYV, etc. require heavy water and are not feasible in rainfed areas.
  - Irrigated agriculture gets majority of credit
  - Even MSPs favour rice and wheat which are mainly irrigated crops.

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- Lack of investment
  - Most of investment related to dams, barrages are for irrigated areas.
- Monsoon variability
  - It impacts food security of rainfed areas.
- Low farmers income
  - High income crops like sugarcane, rice cannot be grown in rainfed areas, which increases vulnerability of farmers
  - Most farmer suicides related to rainfed areas
- Increased vulnerabilities
  - To pest, diseases etc.

Steps to be taken

- Focus on traditional water harvesting methods like
  - Eris and Oranis of Tamil Nadu
  - Ahar Pyne of Bihar
  - Johads of Rajasthan

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- Expanding Irrigation coverage
- Increase MSPs for dryland farming
- Collateral free loans for rainfed farmer.
    - Extending loan repayment tenure to account for monsoon variability
    - Crop insurance through PM Fasal Bima
    - Scientific risk management of crops
- Adapting new methods like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation
- Focus on non farm activities to provide additional support
- Capacity building of rainfed area farmers in crops like pulses, millets etc which can resist monsoon variations
    - Krishi Vigyaan kendras can be utilized

Supporting rain fed farmers is the need of the hour to not only double farmers income but also ensure food security

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15. Despite the steps taken by the government in recent years, a number of problems continue to persist in the urea sector in India. Discuss. What reforms should be taken to address the persisting problems?

(250 words) 15

हाल के वर्षों में सरकार द्वारा उठाए गए कदमों के बावजूद, भारत में यूरिया क्षेत्र में कई समस्याएं निरंतर बनी हुई हैं। चर्चा कीजिए। मौजूदा समस्याओं के समाधान हेतु क्या सुधार किए जाने चाहिए?

Urea sector is necessary for ~~the~~ supporting agriculture, which accounts for 17% GDP.

Government steps

- Gas based economy
- Neem coated urea
  - to regulate urea usage
- DBT in fertilizers
- Nutrient Based subsidy scheme

Problems

- Overuse
  - It has led to skewed N:P:K ratio

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- Block Marketing
  - Excess urea availability due to cheaper rates leads to black-marketing
- Failure of DBT
  - Insufficient financial inclusion, last mile reach
- Fertilizer company
  - Lack access to natural gas required for production of ammonia
  - Highly polluting industry
  - Old machinery, rising bad loans

Steps to be taken

- Rationalizing subsidy on urea
- Increasing access to nutrients like phosporus and sulphur.
- Promote organic farming
- Develop sustainable farming by increasing awareness regarding urea overuse
  - Soil Health cards could be used

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- Promoting gas based economy
  Eg. City Gas Distribution (CGD)
  PM Urja Ganga.
  - This will reduce cost for fertilizer companies, thus helping the government phase out subsidies

- Marketing chains for organic manure like fishcake, animal bones to increase it's availability
  - It will reduce urea subsidy burden

While urea sector problems need to be solved, steps must be taken to ensure that urea is used sustainably while promoting alternative organic means.

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16. What is Access and Benefit Sharing? Explain how it aids in sustainable use of biodiversity. Also, mention the different global and national level mechanisms for ensuring Access and Benefit Sharing. **(250 words) 15**

पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण (एक्सेस एंड बेनिफिट शेयरिंग) क्या है? यह जैव विविधता के संधारणीय उपयोग में किस प्रकार सहायक है, स्पष्ट कीजिए। साथ ही, पहुंच और लाभ साझाकरण सुनिश्चित करने हेतु वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विभिन्न प्रणालियों का उल्लेख कीजिए।

ABS = To support access to genetic resources

Access and Benefit sharing
- → Access to Genetic resources
- → Sustainable use of resources
- ← Sharing the benefits with locals ~~traditional~~

Importance in sustainable use of biodiversity

- Protects exploitation of local peoples as well as biodiversity by ensuring sustainable use.
- Protects ~~B~~ genetic resources
  - By ensuring wise use
- Empowers the local communities
  - Local community gain benefit in the form of finance.
  - These local communities in turn protect biodiversity

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- Recognition worldwide
  - Local genetic resources gain international recognition
  - More and more NGOs and civil society get involved in conservation
- Private investment
  - Those extracting genetic resources invest in it's protection
- Data collection and record of genetic material

Some challenges remain

- Non constitution of ~~People's~~ Biodiversity Registers to record diversity
- Failure to share benefits with locals
- Over exploitation
- Failure to constitute Biodiversity management Committee (BMC)

- Recently, Uttarakhand HC ordered Divya Pharmacy to share benefits with locals. shows the role of ABS in empowering locals

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International Mechanism

- Nagoya Protocol
  - Access to genetic resources
  - Sustainable use
  - Sharing
- CBD (Convention on Biodiversity)
  - Sustainable use of biodiversity

National Mechanism

Biodiversity Act, 2002

- Setting up BMC
- Creation of local biodiversity registers
- Local consultation before accessing genetic resources
  National Biodiversity (NBA) and state Authorities

Access and Benefit Sharing is a step to empower the locals and tribals, the 'true heroes of environment'

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17. Stating the significance, discuss the challenges in achieving disaster resilience of infrastructure. Suggest some ways for mainstreaming it in the development paradigm. (250 words) 15

अवसंरचनाओं का आपदाओं के प्रति सुनम्य (रेजिलिएंट) होने के महत्व को स्पष्ट करते हुए, इससे संबंधित चुनौतियों की चर्चा कीजिए। इसे विकास प्रतिमान की मुख्यधारा में लाने हेतु कुछ उपाय सुझाइये।

India looses $80 bn in lost ~~year~~ 20 years as per UN report

Significance of disaster resilience infrastructure

- Protection from disaster damage
- Reduces loss of human life
- Easier reconstruction eg. Japan
- Reduces fiscal burden on government
- Reduced need for rehabilitation
- A future proof way to tackle rising climate related disasters

Challenges

- Huge financing requirement

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- Lack of environmental engineers
- Encroachment of land
  - Makes it difficult to engage in new construction due to difficulty in land acquisition
- Lack of technology expertise
  - Technology has to be imported.
- Variety of challenges
  - India suffers from variety of disasters like floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, etc
  - Hence, "one size fits all" approach won't suffice
- Poverty and apathy
  - ~~Peo~~ Vulnerable communities are often poor, hence may not be able to afford costly disaster proof infrastructure
  - Lack of public awareness on the need for such infrastructure.
- Lax law implementation
  - Failure to adhere to

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construction norms.

Way forward

- Private participation
  - Tax incentives
  - Viability gap funding
- Central financing
  - A central fund under NDRF to support such infrastructure
  - International collaboration with countries like Japan
- State support
  - States should provide for land acquisition
- Affordable housing
  - PM Awas Yojana can be extended to disaster resilient infrastructure
  - National Housing and Habitat Policy's recommendation of 15% housing of vulnerable in residential projects.
- Disaster prone areas mapping and risk wise infrastructure development.

Disaster Resilient infrastructure is needed in the light of rising disasters to protect vulnerable

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18. Highlighting the significance of data localization for India, discuss various challenges associated with data localization. **(250 words) 15**

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Data localization refers to storing data within national boundaries.

Significance

- Data privacy
  - So that data is not misused.
- Data is the new oil
  - Data is required in new technology like AI, Machine Learning etc.
  - Access to data will support new initiatives like Smart city
  - Local data access to Indian startups will help in their expansion
- Security
  - Data Localization will help security agencies monitor the some
  - No need to depend on foreign countries for data access.
    Eg. Germany refused data due to absence of Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)

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- A national property
  - Nation should have the right to it's citizen's data
  - It will help better manage health, education policies

- Vested foreign interests
  - In the absence of data localization, foreign ~~companies~~ nations could damage Indias political scenario

    Eg. Cambridge Analytica case

- To check monopolitic altitude
  - So that foreign multinationals do not have the sole privilege over Indian data.
  - Data localization will make access to it equitable

Challenges

- Lack of data storage infrastructure
- Lack of comprehensive IT law on privacy, so what is data is misused?
  - State surveillance
  - Data leaks as in UIDAI

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- Lack of skilled cyber security forces
  - Even police officials lack expertise to deal with data related cases
- Will affect investments in digital economy
- May go against liberalism and globalization.
  - May invite backlash from other ~~con~~ countries on Indian companies.
- Also effect Indian startups who might see increased costs

Steps taken
- → RBI directive on payment data localization
- → BN Sri Krishna Committee
- → Directives to ecommerce on data localization

~~Data localization norms should focus~~ ~~on~~ GDPR of EU could be a guideline towards data localization.

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19. Money Laundering as a socio economic offence is a menace especially for developing countries like India. Comment. What measures have been taken at the domestic and international levels to deal with this menace? (250 words) 15

एक सामाजिक आर्थिक अपराध के रूप में धन शोधन विशेषकर भारत जैसे विकासशील देशों के लिए एक खतरा है। टिप्पणी कीजिए। इस खतरे से निपटने हेतु घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर क्या उपाय किए गए हैं?

Money Laundering means misappropriating financial income, evading taxes to avoid financial scrutiny

Social menance

- Tax lost results in low expenditure on social sectors like health, education
- Money laundering companies indulge in practices like low wage, child labour etc to reduce costs and taxes.
- Exploitation of workforce by neglecting social ~~sect~~ security schemes like EPF
- Funding illegal activities like naxalism, which impacts social development

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Economic Menance

- Taxes lost creates budget deficit
- Reduces government income to run the schemes
- Tax avoidance affects national GDP
- Fraud on banks creates NPA crisis
  eg Nirav Modi scam

International measures

- FATF
  It list countries in grey or black lists to check money laundering.
- FSB
  G20's financial stability board develops policies to tackle it
- ~~WTO's~~ DTAA
  Double Taxation Avoidance agreement to check money laundering.

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National Measures

- FEO
  Fugitive Economic Offenders Act to try Money Laundering cases

- PMLA
  ED enforces Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

- ULPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act)

- Benami Properties Transaction Act
  It ensures that those holding unaccounted property are tracked and tried

Checking Money Laundering will help raise revenue for the government which in turn will help increase investment in nation welfare.

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20. The primary motive of terrorism differs from that of organised crime but there exists a symbiotic relationship between the two. Discuss.

(250 words) 15

आतंकवाद का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य संगठित अपराध के उद्देश्य से भिन्न होता है, किन्तु दोनों के मध्य एक सहजीवी संबंध पाया जाता है। चर्चा कीजिए।

Terrorism means inflicting damage on a nation to achieve selfish goals.

Terrorism motive

- To cause damage to a nation
- To pursue self interests.
- Religious fanatism, eg ISIS
- To take revenge,
  - eg 26/11 attack
- For achieving foreign policy
  - Pakistan's state sponsored terrorism in Kashmir
- Geopolitical ambitions
  - Taliban's goal of gaining control over Afghanistan.
- Regional instability, creating fear, etc are some other primary motives

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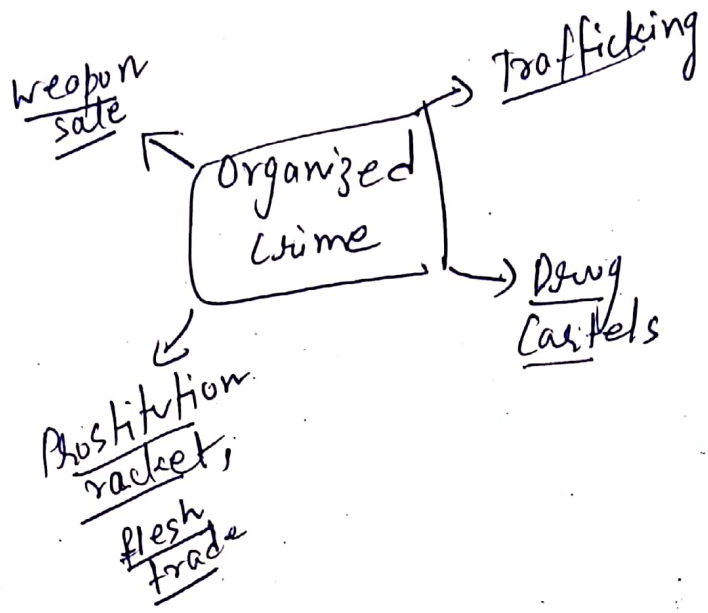

Motive of organized crime

- Mainly involves a group of people who pursue monetary goals
  - Eg drug cartels. to gain money
- Some organized crimes also threaten the state security
  - Eg. those funding separatists, naxals.

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Symbiotic relation between two

- Mentality remains the same to inflict damage
- Organized crime proceed are used to fund terrorism activities
- Organized crime traffick supports terrorists like recruiting youth
- ISIS funded past terrorism, eg. Mumbai attacks, organized crime

Cases

- Organized crime proceeds are involved in funding terrorist from Pakistan, separatists and Naxalism
- Weapon are being supplied to naxals, eg IEDs

Hence, an integrated approach to both organized crime and terrorism is needed.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1246)

Name of Candidate	SHIKHAR CHOUDHARY		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	413063
Center	PUNE	Date	30-07-2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
6	10	
7	10	
8	10	
9	10	
10	10	
11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi- 110009

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. **Contextual Competence**
2. **Content Competence**
3. **Language Competence**
4. **Introduction Competence**
5. **Structure - Presentation Competence**
6. **Conclusion Competence**

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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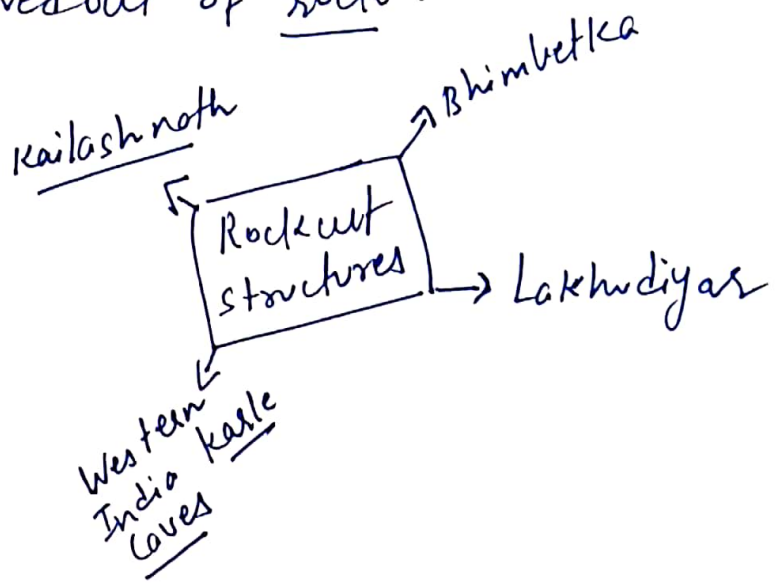
1. Rock-cut structures were closely associated with various religions and religious activities. Discuss the statement giving relevant examples.
(150 words) 10

Rockcut structures refers to architectures carved out of rock.



Religions and Rockcut ~~caves~~

① Jainism: Caves like Ratnagiri in odisha

② Buddhism
- Karle and Konheri in Maharashtra
- Ajanta Caves
- Rockcut stupas like Sanchi

③ Ajivikas
- Barabar caves in Bihar

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(4) Hinduism
- 5 Rathas, Mahabalipuram
- Mahabalipuram rock cut architecture has penance of Arjun, descent of Ganga
- Kailashnath temple at Ellora, elephanta caves with its Trimurti

Religious Activities

(1) Caves have depiction of Gods and Godesses, eg. Kailashnath Temples, Padmapani of Ajanta

(2) Depicts religious celebrations like dancing, music etc in Lakhudiyar caves

(3) Stories of Buddha, eg Jataka tales like 'Dream of Queen Mahadoyi' in Amravati stupa

Indian Architecture presents a great element of diversity and composite culture

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2. The legislative and administrative record of the Congress Ministries during their twenty-eight months rule under the Act of 1935 was positive, but the period also witnessed the emergence of serious weaknesses in the Congress. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Congress won majority of seats in the 1935 elections, except in Punjab and Bengal

Positive achievement

(1) Administrative
- Police reforms, was made accountable
- Political prisoners were released
- Administration was more approachable
- Bureaucracy became accountable

(2) Legislative
- Agricultural reforms like revenue, tax rates, confiscated land given back
- Press restrictions released
- Defence of India Act repealed

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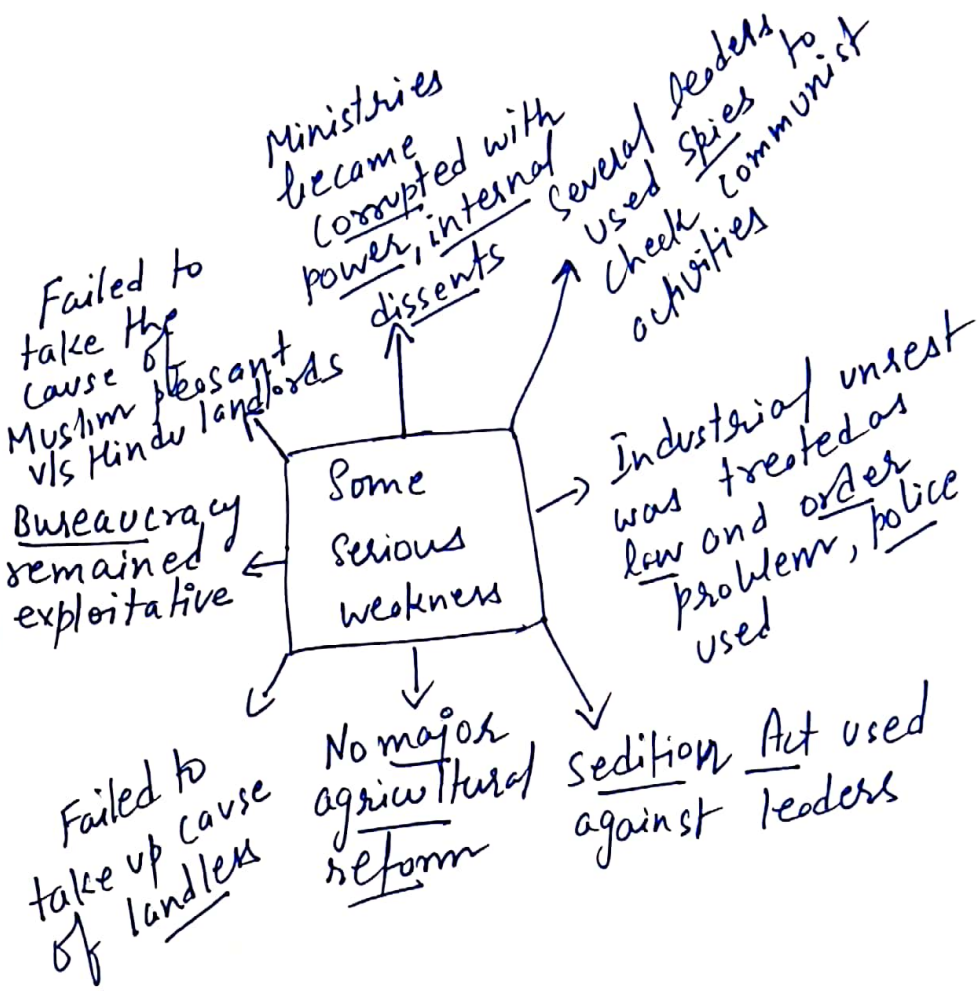

Despite the drawbacks, Congress Ministries ~~that~~ filled the void after Civil Disobedience Movement and instilled pride

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3. Kamladevi Chattopadhyay was a multifaceted personality with significant contributions both to pre and post independence India. Elucidate.
(150 words) 10

Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay is often regarded as world citizen

Contribution

Pre-independence

① Played major role in movements like Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movement

② Helped in the formation of Congress Socialist Party (CSP)

③ Took part in International League against Imperialism.

④ Was a major encouragement and supported women's participation in independence.

⑤ Promoted Indian culture

Post Independence

① Her vision led to establishment of

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National School of Drama and Sangeet Natak Academy

(2) Participated in International Women's League

(3) Had internationistic vision
- Condemended Japanese agression in China / Asia
- Supported Chinese revolution
- Criticized Dutch agression in Indonesia
- Wrote about the true nature of Colonialism, which according to her was a form of exploitation and was not ending.

  Eg. french re-coloniazation approach over Vietnam

~~Help~~

(4) ~~Hetd~~ Helped in NAM formation and the architect of Badaung Conference

(5) Supported solidarity amongst Colonial empires.

Kamladevi remains relevant even today as India progresses as a superpower

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4. The inherent limitations of Napoleon's policy of Continental Blockade ultimately resulted in its failure. Analyze. (150 words) 10

Napoleon is considered the architect of French Revolution, but his policies like Continental Blockade resulted in failure

Continental Blockade

- He tried to outrun and negate Britain naval supremacy.
- Imposed trade sanctions on Britain through Berlin Declaration
- Forced his allies like Spain to accept his directions of blocking trade with Britain
- Conducted regular wars to maintain his supremacy

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Inherent limitations

① Huge costs on wars which diverted funds for development of France.
- Hence, France remained underdeveloped

② Britain was much advanced, and France lost the opportunity to gain from Britain

③ Forcing his allies caused resentment, eg. Spanish Revolution

④ Even Russia left France on this issue, resulting in loss of a major power

⑤ His over ambitious attitude and fetish for war suffocated his own people.

Hence, Napoleon's policy negated his vision of liberty, equality and fraternity

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5. Despite changes in the institution of marriage in recent times, there have been elements of continuity as well. Discuss in the context of India.
(150 words) 10

Marriage in India has been historically considered a sacred bond.

Changes in institution of marriage

Positive

1. Inter-caste marriages have increased
2. Independence in choosing partners
3. Widow marriage becoming acceptable
4. Social evils like sati has ended
5. New bonds like Gay marriages becoming prevalent

Negative

1. Increase in divorce rates
2. Community involvement has reduced, became more of an individual affair
3. New changes like live-in relationship has affected sanctity of marriage

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Continuity in traditions as well

Positive

- Marriage is celebrated, functions are organized
- Is a way of family get together

Negative

- Issue like khap panchayat remains, honour killing
- Prevalence of dowry, child marriage remains, women lack inheritance

Way forward

- Law commission recommended registration of marriages
- checking social ills through Triple Talaq bill, uniform civil code

Marriage as an institution remains important as it builds social trust and harmony

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6. There are multiple disabilities that a person experiences in the course of ageing. Elaborate. Also identify key government initiatives taken for addressing them. (150 words) 10

As per Census 2011, there are over 104 million senior citizens in the country and they are expected to increase

Multiple disabilities

- Social disconnect, Isolation
- Generation gap
- Abuse, as per AgeWell foundation, 71% face abuse
- Digital and financial illiteracy
- Lack of employment prospects
- Difficulty in accessing government services
- Increased dependence, ~~on~~ thus making them vulnerable
- Health issues like cardio, vision impairment

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Key Government initiatives

1. National Policy of Senior Citizens to develop age-centric policies
2. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana to provide assited devices to senior citizens
3. Jan Dhan for financial inclusion

Way forward

- Expanding digital literacy ~~like~~ through PMGDISHA
- Age-centric legislation
- Awareness, old age homes, participation of NGOs.

With increasing population, old age population will increase. Hence, their welfare becomes a necessity.

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7. Highlight the reasons behind prevalence of low literacy rate among tribals. Also, mention some initiatives taken by the government in this regard.

(150 words) 10

Tribals, despite being 8.6% of the population has a literacy rate of 53% compared to national average 73.

Reasons for low literacy:

- Lack of school infrastructure like buildings
- Low teacher-pupil ratio, teacher absenteism
- Lack of instruction in mother tongue
- Lack of awareness amongst tribals
- Poverty, hence unable to invest in education
- Misappropriation of development funds, government apathy
- Role of Gram Sabha is diluted, lack of funds

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Government initiatives

1. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) - to develop residential school facilities
2. Right to Education Act provides for reservation (25%)
3. Samagra Shiksha has tribal education component

Way forward

- TSR Subramania committee recommended bilingual education system
- Better awareness on need for education
- Community participation, developing school infra.

Tribal education is the need of hour to empower the tribals.

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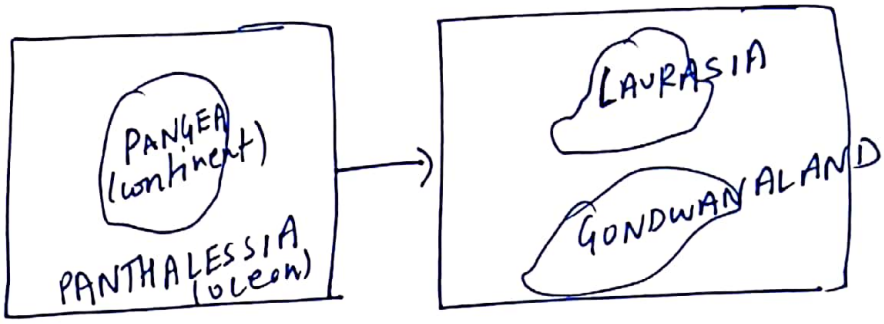
8. Explain how Continental Drift Theory describes the changing configuration of the continents. Discuss the prominent evidences given by Alfred Wegener to support his theory. **(150 words) 10**

Continental Drift Theory talks about Continents were a part of a single landmass which drifted apart



The single continent PANGEA split into the northern LAURASIA and the southern Gondwanaland.

India was a part of Gondwanaland.

Forces responsible
- → Tidal force due to pull of sun and moon
- → Pole fleeing force due to Earth's rotation

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Evidences given

1. Jig saw fit of continents like African and American coast
2. Presence of similar fossils on ~~both~~ same sides of two continents
3. Precence of Placer deposits
4. Similar Tillite (glacial) deposits
5. Rocks of same age found on the continent show that they were part of the same.

Example
The presence of gold deposits in Ghana but complete absence of gold bearing rocks, while presence of gold veins in Brazil show that they were joined

~~Though~~ Continental Drift Theory has been discarded by Plate Tectonic Theory due to its inability to explain forces.

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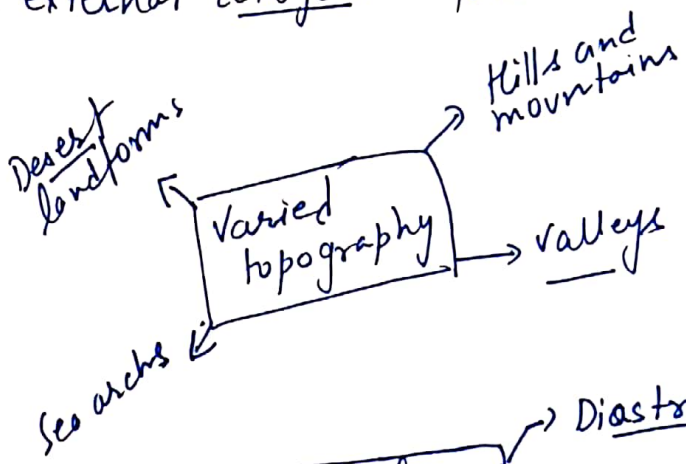
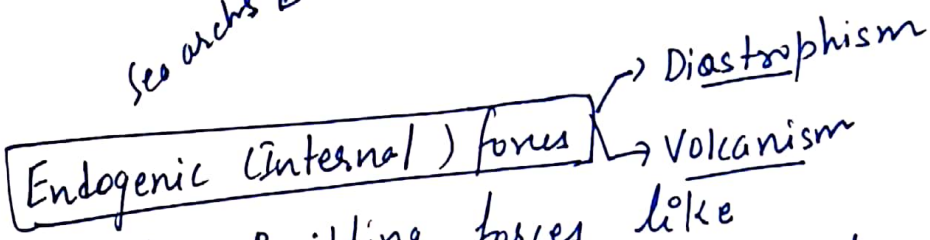
9. The variety of landforms on the earth's surface is the result of internal and external forces. Discuss. (150 words) 10

The varied topography of earth has been a mixture of internal (endogenic) and external (exogenic) forces





① Mountain Building forces like tension, compression of earth's surface

- Results in folding and faulting
- Example are Himalayas (fold) and Tibetan Plateau

② Volcanic forces and extrusion of magma resulted in mountains like Mt. Fiji

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③ External forces → Weathering, Erosion

① Ocean waves
- Sea Stacks, Sea Arches

② Wind (Erosional and Depositional)
- Erosional like Yardang
- Depositional like sand dunes, barchans, seifs

③ Glacial forces
- Eg. moraine deposits (depositional) and cliff's (erosional)

④ Water based
- Formation of river deltas (depositional), ox bow lakes
- River banks (step wts), water falls

Both forces have resulted in varied landforms on Earth

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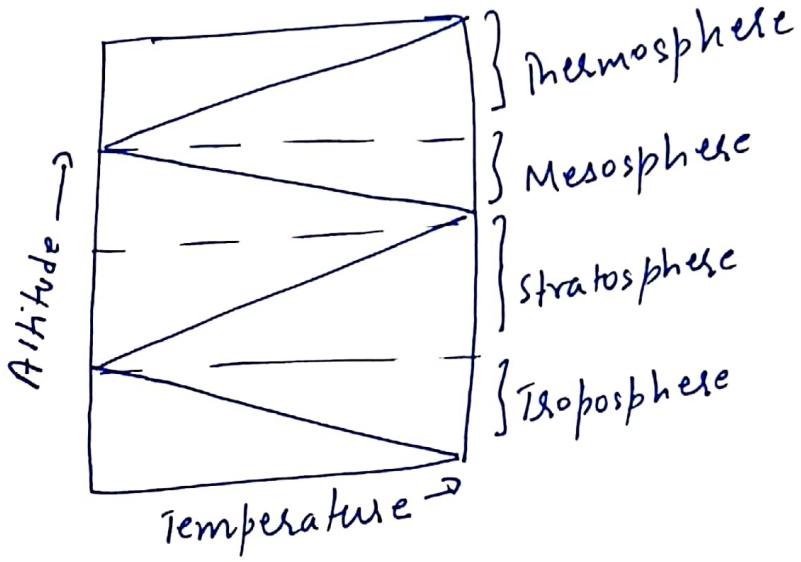
10. Explaining the concept of Lapse Rate, examine its relationship with atmospheric stability. **(150 words) 10**



Lapse Rate is the phenomenon in which the temperature varies with altitude. Due to differential heating of atmosphere, and varying densities with altitude, temperature decreases with height in troposphere and increases in stratosphere.

Lapse rate has a major role in atmospheric stability

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Role in atmospheric stability

1. Maintains uniform temperature
2. Is important for weather related events like rainfall.
3. Maintain's Earth's Heat Budget
4. Protects the earth from harmful solar waves
   - eg Ozone in stratosphere is required to shield from UV
   - Thermosphere shields solar flares
5. Results in stratification of the atmosphere

Lapse Rate is essential for survival of the earth's lifeforms.

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11. The colonial period brought the influence of Western architectural forms to India. In this context, giving examples, highlight the contribution of Europeans to Indian architecture. **(250 words) 15**

The colonial period brought architectural forms and resulted in a multi cultural Indian architecture

Benefits of Western influence
- Amalgamation of Indian and Western forms.
- Added to diversity
- Gave new life to Indian architecture
- Brought modern forms

Hence, some of important contributions are:

① Portugese
- Brought Iberian Style
- Development of Patio houses
- Wood was used for roofs
- Eg. Catheral at Goa

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(2) French
- Brought anonymous architecture
- Development of buildings in Pondicherry.

(3) English
- Form of indo-gothic architecture
- Indian forms like domes, pointed arches, minars were used
- New forms like large windows, thin walls, unified ground plan, spacious construction
- Example, Victoria Memorial in Kolkata

(4) Modern forms
- Lutyens buildings of Delhi
  - Circular Buildings, red sandstone
  - Upturned domes
  - Anonymous design
  - Random construction, uniformity was lacking, leading to congestion
  - Eg. Parliament building

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Modern forms

- Lee Corbusier and his design of Chandigarh, with modern architecture, tall buildings.
- Laurie Baker, "architect of the poor" known for mass housing of kerala, large ventillation, use of local materials, focus on thermal comfort

Negtive of European influence

- Brought artificiality over lively Indian architecture
- Led to decline in Indian styles like Rock cut architecture

European Influence continues to this day, and newer construction in cities are a resemblence of that influences eg. Mumbai

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12. The nineteenth century witnessed a struggle against the backward elements of traditional culture. Discuss in the context of socio-religious reform movements. (250 words) 15

19th century was witnessed a social revolution to root out evils like sati, widow remarriage etc.

① Women related

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought for women Rights, leading to abolishment of sati
- Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar fought for women's education, and helped in establishment of Bethune's school
- Jyotiba Phule established first ~~wom~~ girl's school in Poona
- DK Karve established 1st women's university, SNDT University
- BM Malabari fought for raising the marriage age for women (against child marriage)

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(2) Counter superstition, religious orthodoxy

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy preached unity of all religions
- Akhay Kumar Dutta voiced against superstition by teaching that, "Rationality is our only preceptor"
- Syed Ahmed Khan taught Hindu-Muslim unity ~~by teaching that~~
  - He also took steps to end Muslim backwardness through education by establishing Mohmeddan Anglo Oriental College

(3) Religious changes

- Vivekananda made religion broad minded
  - Instead of focussing on rites and rituals, he gave the principle of "Service to Mankind" through Ramkrishna Mission
  - Also believed in Hindu-Muslim unity

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13.

- Swami Dayananda stood for ~~sem~~ purifying Hinduism of it's rituals, orthodoxies and established DAV

- leaders like Jyotiba Phule, Ranade fought against ~~uncha bility~~ untouchability.

Negative effects
- → Led to religious revivalism, eg. Dharma Sabha countered Brahmo Samaj
- → Shuddhi Movement took anti Muslim sentiment
- → Led to false pride, eg people even began glorifying Sati
- → Keshub chandra married his ~~minor~~ child (Child marriage) to a minor

19th century revivalism and attack on backwardness was a major step to end caste based, gender based violence.

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13. Explaining the reasons behind partition of Bengal, discuss the successes and limitations of the Swadeshi movement launched in its wake. (250 words) 15

Bengal was partitioned in 1905 by Lord Curzon.

Reasons

→ British reasons
- Difficult to administer such a large province
- To give better administration
- To provide better representation to Muslim dominated areas
- For ~~better~~ developing Homogeneous territories

→ Actual Reasons
- To create wedge between Hindu-Muslims, "Divide and Rule"
- To check growing Bengal nationalism
- To better use security forces and army in smaller territories

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Success of Swadeshi

- Led to nation wide awakening, spreading of national consciousness
- Made people realize the true nature of British rule
- Different parts of India got united,
  - Tilak carried Swadeshi to Maharashtra
  - Lala Lajpat to Punjab
- Hindu-Muslim unity
  - Tying of Rakhi, taking bath in Ganga
- Spread of culture, modern education
  - National Council of Education was set
  - Several universities were opened
  - Cultural poems like Bande Mataram, Neel Darpan, Ananda Math
- Spread of radical politics, extremists like Tilak come into picture
- Widespread participation of students, women

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- Economic impetus through boycott of foreign clothes, swodeshi clothes, industries like PC Ray chemical factory set up.

Limitations
- → Failed to arouse the lower class, peasants, remained confined to middle class
- → Hindu rites like dioth in Ganga led to communal feelings, also Shivaji festivals and Ganesh festivals
  - led to establishment of all India Muslim league
- → Didnt affect regions like South India
- → Became a cause for rift in Congress.

Finally, Bengal partition was annulled in 1911

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14. The reorganisation of states in India post-independence has been an ongoing process with distinct contributing factors. Analyse. (250 words) 15

The recent language controversy over Draft New Education Policy has brought into focus States Reorganization which started with Andhra Pradesh

Reorganization
- → Linguistic factors, eg Telgu-dominated Andhra,
- → Religious factors, eg Sikh dominated Punjab
- → To cater to regional aspirations, eg North East

Reorganization a continuing process

① North East: Regions continue demanding autonomy. Eg, Khasi's demand, Bodo's demand for Bodoland

② South India: Intra regional demands, eg. Telangana and Andhra

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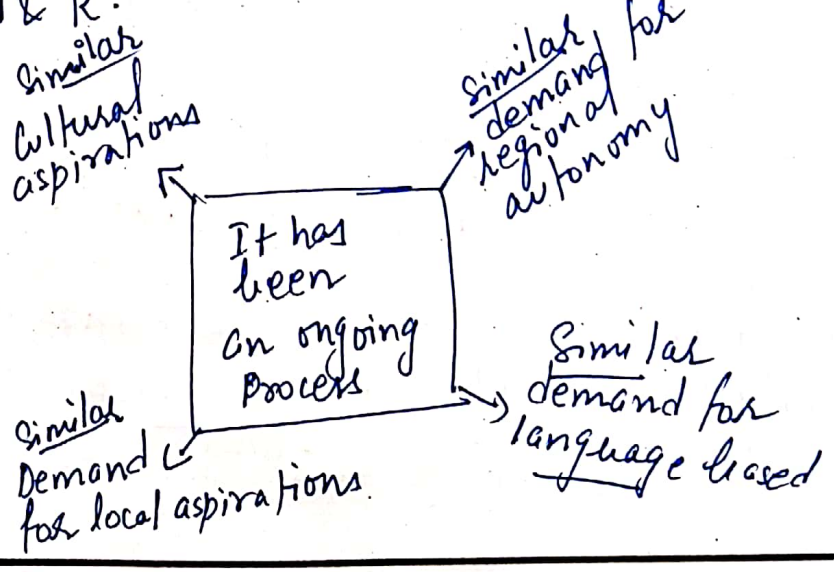
③ Maharashtra : Demand for a separate Vidarbha

④ Gujarat : Demand for Saurashtra

⑤ Recent reorganizations based on demand for autonomy and underdevelopment issues.
Eg Jharkhand and Chattisgarh

⑥ Community within States for demanding reorganization.
Eg Gorkhas demanding separate State

⑦ Jammu and Kashmir: Ladhakis demanding separate autonomous region within J & K.



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Distinct contributing factors

- Rise in regional aspirations
- Underdevelopment of areas like Jharkhand
- Linguistic chauvinism
- Growth in regional parties
- Increasing Tribal assertiveness in North East
- Less violent, with a more mature approach, eg Gorkhas not demanding seccession
- Inter-Regional and Intra-Regional inequalities

State reorganization is a way to maintain stability but should not compromise Indian unity as said by ~~Dhar~~ Fazl Ali committee.

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15. The Treaty of Versailles was not a peace agreement based on reconciliation but was 'dictated peace' forced on Germany, which eventually triggered the Second World War. Examine. (250 words) 15

Treaty of Versailled was signed at the end of WW I after the defeat of Germany.

It was in a form a peace agreement based on reconciliation

1. Germany was reduced of it's power - so hence, a threat was resolved
2. Many independent nations came up, thus reducing colonialism
3. ILO was established, a major effort towards global welfare

Still, it remained a dictated peace on Germany, resulting in WW II.

Dictated peace → Germany was not consulted in the framing of the treaty

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Dictated peace

- Germany was not allowed to keep any military
- All her colonies were redistributed amongst the victors
- Pay huge war indemnity
- ~~Act~~ forced to accept 'war guilt'
- Germany was prevented to unite with Austria
- Germany was compromised, eg. Poland was given access to sea route through Germany.

Hence, Treaty of Versailles was signed without considering German interests.

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It led to WW II

① German pride was hurt and developed a sense of revenge

② Failure to keep German interests in mind, developed ~~alient~~ alienation of Germans

③ Rise of Hitler, a war soldier on the patriotic and nationalist sentiments.

- It was due to humiliation brought by Treaty of Versailles

④ Huge war indemnity led to infation, Stoking ~~communalis~~ nationalist sentiments.

⑤ The treaty was unjustified, as Germany was stripped of all it's posession

⑥ Also hurt Italian sentiments by denying them share in the Treaty

The Treaty and it's flawed design led to WW II

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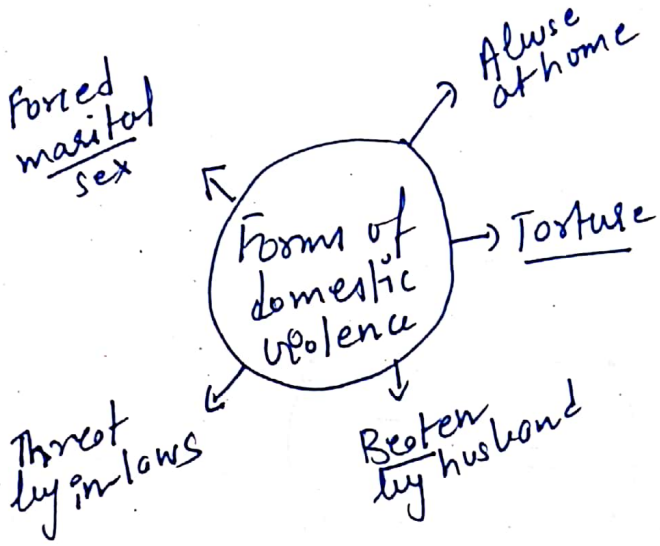
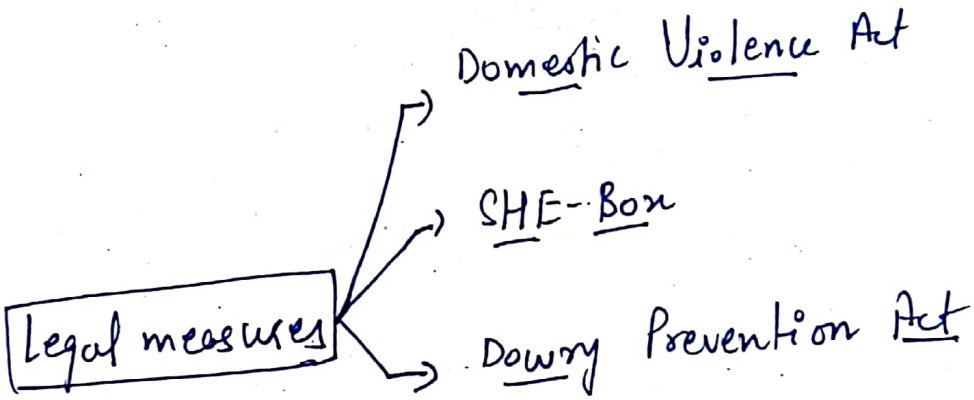
16. Legal measures alone are not sufficient for addressing the issue of domestic violence against women, rather it requires intervention at societal level. Discuss. (250 words) 15

Domestic Violence is a grave act of torture on women at the hands of household members.





However, they have been insufficient

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Legal measures issues

- Underreporting by women
- No accountability as to who to hold responsible for carrying out legal measures
- Lack of confidence in women
- Illiteracy, lack of awareness of laws
- Police insensitive attitude, fail to register FIR.
- Delay in court proceedings, cases piling up
  - Creates agony in women
- Legal measures does not address the root cause, that is societal mentality.

Need for intervention at societal level

- Will Develop values like dignity for women
- Positive environment for women, hence more will be encouraged to speak
- Will make the society receptive to women's needs

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Societal intervention needed

- Society will participate in fighting domestical violence
- Reduce the element of stigma faced by women
- Societal vigilance
- Lead to civil society participation
- Will end evils like dowry, which causes domestic violence.

Success of schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao tells the importance of societal intervention

Way forward

- Value based education
- Strengthening courts, sensitization of women
- Women empowerment like financial independence
- Involving Civil Society and NGOs like SEWA

Ending Domestic Violence is the need of the hour for empowerment of women!

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17. India is undergoing a demographic transition the implications of which are multipronged. Analyze. (250 words) 15

As per recent UN report, India will be the most populous country by 2027, surpassing China.

Indias demographic transition

- India's average age is 29.
- Dependency ratio is 49.8 %.
- As per Agewell foundation report, India to have around 173 million old age people
- Currently, we are experiencing youth bulge

Positive implications

1. Growth in demographic dividend
2. If skilled, could provide huge economic boost, GDP growth
3. Boost our diaspora
4. Support to families

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(5) Provide much needed labour to sustain infrastructural growth

(6) Huge employment prospects through export of labour

- Japan hiring Indian's to counter it's declining youth population

(7) Old age population will provide the much need experience, thus providing social support.

Challenges

- If unskilled, can lead to demographic burden
- Competition for limited resources
- Increase in interstate migration, leading to slums, ethnic clashes
- Increase in diseases due to poor health infrastructure
- Unemployment may increase, already as per PLFS, it is 6.1 %.

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Challenges
- Old age population will increase, and we lack infrastructure to support their growth
- Increase in conflicts, crimes

Way forward

1. National Population Policy recommendation of 2.1 TFR needs to be achieved
2. Skilling the youth
3. Improving industrial employment scenario
4. Developing old age homes
5. Family Planning with focus on expanding contraceptives, sterilization

Population explosion can be a benefit and reap dividends if channelled properly.

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18. Highlight the significance of watershed development in India. Give reasons for the limited success of initiatives directed towards watershed management in India. Also, suggest some measures to improve the design of watershed programs. **(250 words) 15**

Watershed refers to the catchment area of rivers, it's drainage basin.

Significance of watershed area devn

- Conserve water
- Counter Climate change and water scarcity
- Biodiversity preservation
- Ecological services like ground water recharge, river flow
- Benefit agriculture by improving soil quality, irrigation
- Disaster Management by checking floods
- Aesthetic environment, potential for ecotourism

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Government Initiatives

- Integrated Watershed Management of NMSA
- PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana has watershed management component

Reasons for limited success

1. Lack of data on the extent, and area of river catchment
2. No comprehensive monitoring of projects
3. Lack of involvement of local community
4. Non implementation of laws.
5. Lack of funds
6. Disputes between states over control of watershed areas.
7. Poor planning and design, which compromises the ecosystem and threatens it diversity
8. Encroachment of watershed areas.

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Suggested design changes

- A nodal central monitoring agency under PM
- Implementing the program on mission-mode, by creating a SPV
- Finance through green bonds
- Strengthen River Boards under River Board Act to bring inter state coordination
- Local community involvement through social audit of programs.

Integrated Watershed Management will help us fight the water crisis as predicted by Niti Aayog's CWMI report

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19. Explain the relationship between raw materials and location of industries. How are globalisation and technological advancements changing this relationship? **(250 words) 15**

Location of industries depend on raw material as it provides the necessary inputs for manufacture of goods.

Relationship

① Iron and Steel industry found in Chotanagpur plateau like Jamshedpur

- Reason: Iron ore nearly in areas like Odisha, Jharkhand Singhbhum

② Cotton industries in Mumbai-Ahmedabad belt

- Reason: Cotton growth in the Deccan Plateau

③ Jute industry in Bengal

- Reason: proximity to Jute growing lands.

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Nearness to Raw material has following benefits:

1. Reduces cost
2. Easy transportation
3. Easy availability
4. Favourable local conditions.

Weight loosing materials like sugarcane require proximity to ~~to~~ industries, else it looses it's quality

However, certain industries ~~like~~ donot require proximity:

1. Cotton is not a weight loosing material, hence cotton textile industries have come up in South like Tamil Nadu
2. Light weight industries like electronics donot ~~require~~ proximity to raw materials hence have come up in Delhi and Gurugram

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Impact of globalization

① Raw material can be transported to long distances and in short time, hence proximity to ~~raw~~ industries has become redundant

② Easy availability of market

③ Cheaper labour

Impact of technology

① Technology has improved shelf life of weight loosing materials, better recovery. Hence, raw materials can be processed at far flung areas.

Eg. Growth of sugarcane industry in South

② Made local advantages seem less important

③ Better processing

Hence, relationship between raw material and location of industry has changed

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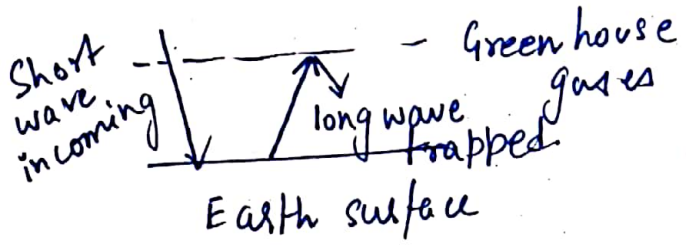
20. Explain how natural greenhouse effect helps in maintaining Earth's heat budget. What are the possible implications of rising concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in atmosphere on Earth's heat budget?

(250 words) 15

~~Greeh~~ Greenhouses gases refer to gases like CO_2, H_2O, Methane etc. which produce an effect similar to Greenhouses.

They allow the short incoming radiation to pass through the atmosphere but prevent the outgoing long wave radiations. This in turn prevents ~~espace~~ escape of all the received insolation back into the atmosphere, thus warming the Earth. ~~and~~



GHGs hence play an important role in maintaining heat budget

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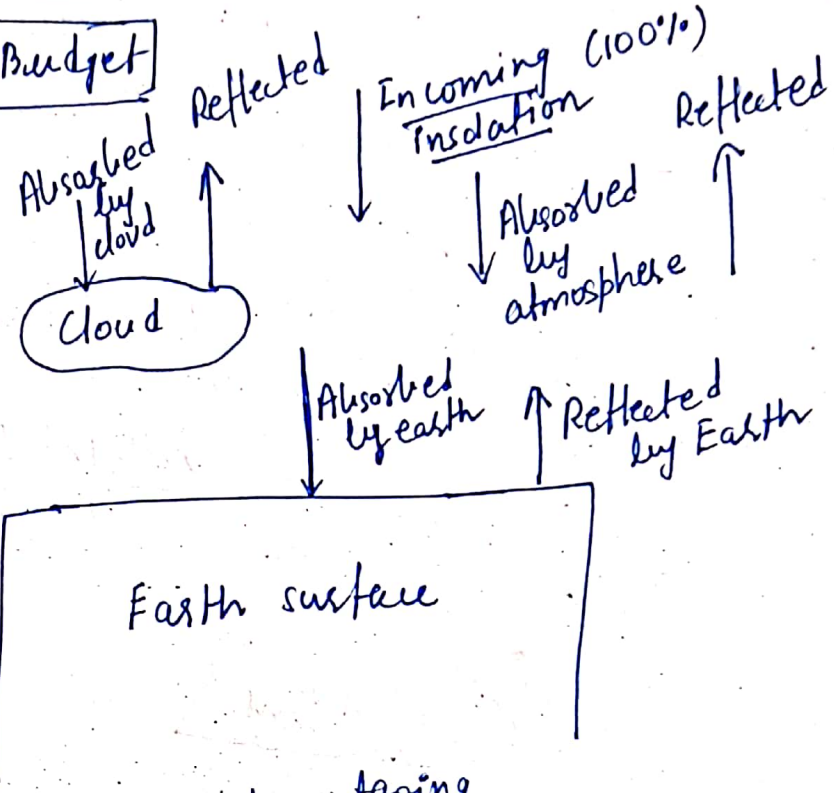
Heat Budget



net = 0

Net incoming = Net outgoing

GHGs maintain Heat Budget

- → Maintaining uniform temperature by warming of atmosphere
- → Prevents outgoing radiation
- → Keeps Earth warm at nights

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Rising GHGs

1. While the incoming radiation is constant, the outgoing radiation is changing
2. The rising GHGs trap more amount of ~~GHG~~ outgoing long wave radiations
3. This has resulted in excessive warming
   - As per WMO, atmospheric temperature has increased by over 1°C since pre-industrial levels.
4. Thus, the Heat Budget has been disturbed, with excessive Global warming

Implications
- Changing Weather Patterns
- Global warming
- Temperature stratification

GHGs concentration has become a catastrophe and effective Paris ~~imple~~ Goal implementation is the need.

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GENERAL STUDIES (TEST CODE : 1247)

Name of Candidate	SHIKHAR CHOUDHARY		
Medium Eng./Hindi	ENG.	Registration Number	913063
Center		Date	7/08/2019

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1	10	
2	10	
3	10	
4	10	
5	10	
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9	10	
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11	15	
12	15	
13	15	
14	15	
15	15	
16	15	
17	15	
18	15	
19	15	
20	15	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **TWENTY** questions printed in **ENGLISH**
3. **All questions are compulsory.**
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other that the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

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1. Mention the structure and functions of NITI Aayog. Also, comment on its contemporary relevance. (150 words) 10

NITI Aayog replaced Planning Commiss^n to ~~develet~~ develop 'operative federalism'

Structure
- PM as chair
- Governing Council consisting State CM's
- CEO, Vice Chairman
- Outside experts

Function
- Policy making
- Helping states in low formulation & implementing policies
- Cater to new fields like AI
- Develop long term strategies & vision like 3year, 5year & 7 year Agenda

Contemporary Relevance

(1) ~~Int~~ Fresh energy into policy formulation thus replacing decade old Planning commission

(2) Diversified and complex low making requires state cooperation which NITI provides

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③ Technical expertise like Academia will help in better policy making

④ NITI Aayog will propel development in new fields like AI and Blockchain

eg. NITI's ~~Indian~~ Model Centre for Transformative AI.

⑤ Will promote competitive federalism through Aspirational Districts.

⑥ Better monitoring of schemes like NITI Vice Chairman heads POSHAN

Not relevant
- → Not a constitutional body
- → Lack financial allocation powers, which reduces authority
- → Disproportionate voting share of Centre, thus against federalism

NITI Aayog has the potential to usher a new era of federalism through
- → giving constitutional mandate
- → more say of states
- → financial role like Planning Commission

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2. Critically discuss the practice of setting up Fast Track Courts to reduce pendency of cases in the judiciary. (150 words) 10

Fast Track Courts are set up to try cases, thus reducing burden of Traditional courts.

Need for fast track courts in reducing pendency

- Burden sharing between courts
- Speedy disposal
- Limited ~~scope~~ jurisdiction leads to better decision
- Even Law Commission recommends fast Track Courts to try petty disputes like Traffic violations
- less court adjournment leads to faster disposal

However, there have been issues in FTCs.

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Issues | Unable to address pendency

1. National Law University reports suggest slow disposal of cases by FTCs. & lax attitude
2. FTCs suffer from infrastructural constraints and staff shortages
3. Lack of funds from centre, hence depends on state's mercy
4. Insufficient no. of FTCs have been set up
5. Multiple judicial authorities control FTCs, thus delaying justice.

Way forward
- → Parliamentary Standing Committee recommends States to give lands to set up courts
- → F.C recommended setting up 1800 FTCs

FTC's are a step to ensure speedy and Accessible justice delivery as happened in kathua rape case

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3. Highlight the challenges faced by lower judiciary in India and suggest measures for enhancing their productivity. (150 words) 10

lower judiciary in India involves courts like → Sessions court
→ District judge
→ Munsif's court etc.

Challenges

1. Over 6000 vacancies in judicial posts.
2. Infrastructural constraints like lack of court offices, ~~no~~ staff shortages
3. Poor quality of judges who are appointed through favouritism
4. Over 3 crore pending cases
5. High frequency of judgement shows poor quality of decisions
6. Costly and too complex for the poor people.
7. Frequent adjournments delays justice

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Measures

- Law Commission recommends All India Judicial Commission
- Judicial Standards & Accountability Bill to enforce judicial conduct
- Fast tracking e-courts to make judicial process transparent
- Economic Survey recommends Indian Court & Tribunal Services (ICTS) to relieve courts of administrative burden
- Setting up Lok Adalats for cost effective justice
- Draft Memorandum of Procedure which states that judges of highest merit should be inducted.

By above steps, justice will become more accessible and inclusive.

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4. Assess the need to formalise the process of post-legislative scrutiny to improve the effectiveness of laws. (150 words) 10

Post legislative scrutiny involves critically examining the impact of legislation on general public & whether it had served it's mandate.

Need to formalize post legislative scrutiny

① Will lead to evidence based decision making
- Rectify mistakes that may occur in legislative impact

② Better executive accountability through Parliamentary committees
- Also, citizen's could use post legislative scrutiny as a yardstick for goverment performance

③ Technical expertise could be availed leading to better legislation

④ Check hasty decision making & government will be more careful in future law making

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Need not formalize

1. Will delay law implementation, thus impacting public service delivery
2. Government may avoid taking extreme and bold steps due to fear of criticism
3. Will increase undue burden on Parliament when it's productivity is already falling
4. Highly subjective approach and is prone to errors and misjudgements.
5. Huge Financial cost

Way forward

- Strengthening Parliamentary Committees so that they hold govt. accountable
- Parliament (Enhancement of Productivity) Bill to improve legislative scrutiny

Post legislative scrutiny could be a way to enforce executive accountability

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5. Discuss the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving the effectiveness of e-governance in India. (150 words) 10

AI uses Machine learning and Big Data to perform complex tasks which is impossible for human mind.

AI potential → error free
→ fast
→ wide applications in Health, agriculture etc.

AI and egovernance

① Data based decision making
- Better health record mananagement of patients.
- Better land record management

② Check leakages in Public distribution system.
- Also, it will eliminate the need of middlemen in public service delivery

③ Judicial e-governance like better identification of criminals, better case management

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(4) Useful for initiatives like Smart Cities
- Eg Integrated Command & Control Centres (ICCC) will lead to better city governance.

(5) Address cyber threats by checking cyber attacks, thus securing egovernance

Challenges to potential
- → Huge initial cost due to technology import
- → Low digital literacy
- → Insufficient digitization of records, no data culture yet in India
- → Creates privacy concerns
- → Low skills in AI field.
- → Threats from unethical AI which can discriminate on basis of caste, religion etc.

AI's potential will improve governance and steps like R&D, skilling youth, creating digital infrastructure through NITI's ICTAI should be adopted.

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6. Despite various reforms in the public grievance redressal mechanisms, their effectiveness remain limited. Discuss. (150 words) 10

Public Grievance Redressal is a way to address the genuine concerns of public who face issues due to low implementation

Various Reforms
- → CPGRAMs, a centralized Public Grievance Redressal initiative
- → Citizen's chaster
- → RTI law mandates Grievance Redressal.

Limited effectiveness
- Citizen's don't get timely data
- Department's fail to provide correct information
- Low awareness regarding such mechanism amongst citizens.

Reasons for limited effectiveness

(1) Organizational apathy : As per

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CIC Transparency Audit, 80% PIO's dont know basics of RTI

(2) Lack of manpower, eg many department fail to appoint nodal officer

(3) Lack of digitization
- No mechanism to track the status of grievance.
- Paper work being done in majority of offices

(4) Financial constraints by Grievance Redressal cells

(5) Poor infrastructure like lack of photocopier machines, internet connectivity

(6) No monitoring to check if grievance redressal cell is functioning.

(7) Decline in values of public service

Steps
- → Promoting e-governance
- → Capacity Building of department
- → Citizen awareness

ARC considers Efficient Grievance Redressal as key to good governance

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7. Explaining the factors that contribute to trafficking of women and children in India, highlight the steps taken in recent times to combat it.

(150 words) 10

As per NCRB, over 8000 cases of trafficking have been reported.

Factors contributing to Trafficking

Women
- Patriarchal mindset
- Lacks voice in the society
- Increasing vulnerability as males migrate for employment and women left alone.
- Police & security agency insensitive approach to women
- Lack of financial autonomy makes them vulnerable to sex trade

Children
- Rising incidences of drug abuse and alcoholism
- Increasing incidences of stress levels and suicidal tendencies make them vulnerable

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Children

- Most crimes are done by a known family member, thus difficult monitoring
- Rising slum population, every 8th urban child is a slum dweller
- Breakdown of traditional social structure, growth of nuclear families. reduces care. of children

Steps taken

1. POSCO Act which criminalizes child Trafficking
2. Juvenille Justice Act
3. Vishakha Guidelines to rehabilitate trafficking victims

Way forward

- Passing Anti Trafficking Bill
- Strengthening security infrastructure like CCTVs.

Checking Trafficking is a constitutional mandate under Article 23..

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8. With Vector-Borne Diseases (VBDs) reaching epidemic proportions in India, highlight the factors that have led to their emergence. Also, suggest some measures for their effective control and management. **(150 words) 10**

Vector borne diseases include diseases like malaria, dengue which are transmitted by mosquitoes

Epidemic proportions

- India account's for 6% of malaria cases
- Highest number of dengue in South Asia
- Increasing threats from Zika, Filaria etc

Factors for emergence

- Poor disease surveillance
- Unsanitary conditions like open defecations breeds mosquito
- Rising threats from climate changes
- Poverty (24% population below BPL) increases vulnerability
- Lack of awareness regarding healthy practices
- Low presence of Primary Health Centres.

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(Some Measures)

1. Mapping of disease prone areas will lead to better policy making
2. Data collection on incidence of diseases
3. R&D investment for developing new treatments for VBD
4. Expanding Primary Health Care
   - Eg Ayushman Bharat provides for Health and Wellness Centres
5. Community involvement like Civil Society in disease monitoring
6. Making Health care cost effective through health insurance

Above steps will help India fulfill the mandate under ~~Ar~~ SDG 3 (Health)

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9. After years of neglect, rapidly evolving regional strategic realities are now forcing India and Indonesia to coordinate their policies ever more closely. Discuss. (150 words) 10

India and Indonesia are two littoral states ~~to~~ surrounding the Indian Ocean

Years of neglect

→ Indonesia moved towards USA and India towards USSR

→ Issues ~~of~~ like Andaman dispute.

Rapidly evolving regional ~~st~~ strategic realities are forcing them to coordinate

Evolving realities

→ Threats from China's presence ~~on~~ in Indian Ocean

→ Trade cooperation ~~through~~ as Indian Ocean becomes focal point

→ Common groups like ~~As~~ RCEP

→ Focus on Blue economy

→ Converging views on maintaining freedom of Navigation adherence to International laws, checking sea piracy.

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Evidence of changing realities

1. Indonesia gave access to Sabang port to India
2. Increasing military cooperation and exercises
3. Coordinating on trade talks in RCEP

Challenges remain

1. Connectivity is a major issue
2. Difficult to counter China's economic might
3. Historical distrust remains.
4. Diverging interests, as Indonesia is more concerned with Pacific Ocean countries unlike India.

Way forward

- India could invite Indonesia to BIMSTEC
- ~~Improving~~ Undertaking joint projects in Indian Ocean
- People to people contacts, a form of soft power

India and Indonesia should collaborate for developing an Asian Century

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10. Despite several attempts at resetting the ties, various barriers continue to be a cause of concern in the India-Nepal bilateral relations. Discuss. (150 words) 10

India Nepal have a history of friendship through Friendship Treaty signed in 1950s which allows Nepalis to work in India without permit.

Attempts at resetting ties
- India welcomed Nepal's new Constitution
- Indian PM visited Nepal on priority
- India to develop Arunа Hydro project in Nepal.

Barriers remain
- Nepal ignoring Indian interests like accepting China's BRI, new railway line linking China and Nepal
- Nepal rejected BIMSTEC participation in MILAN exercise.

Reasons for barrier

(1) Nepal is wary of India's Big Brotherly attitude

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(2) Indian Blockade during Nepal's constitutional crisis created distrust

(3) Indian attitude of looking at Nepal from the prism of China hurt Nepal

(4) Over dependence of India has led to huge deficit for Nepal

(5) Nepal has a history of flashing China card

(6) Delay in completion of projects from Indian side has hurt Nepal's economic interests

(7) India unable to match China's economic prowess

Steps
- → SAARC could be used to regain trust
- → India should avoid interfering in internal affairs of Nepal, Panchsheel could be a guide.
- → More ultra / contact

Nepal is an important pillar for India's "neighbourhood first" policy and we should maintain healthy relation

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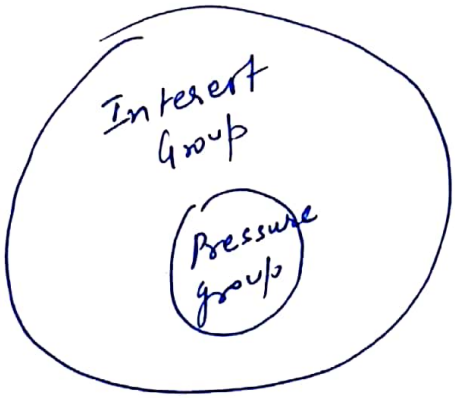
11. Delineate the differences between pressure groups and interest groups. Citing examples, elaborate on the ways in which pressure groups influence government decisions and policy making in India. **(250 words) 15**

Interest & Pressure Groups play a major role in the political discourse.

Pressure Groups	Interest Groups
They include a group of like minded people who try to influence a policy	They are a larger group who are more concerned in protecting their interest over policy making
They are a smaller group	Interest Groups in a way include Pressure Groups

Example : Kisan Shakti Sangathan, FICCI, ASSOHAM



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Pressure groups have influenced government decisions & policy making as

1. They represent the voice of the people
2. Example of grassroot democracy
3. Government is made accountable to the public.
4. They are a major vote bank
5. Genuine concerns have led to better laws

Example

→ Mazdoor Kisaan Shakti Sangathon played a major role in getting RTI passed

→ FICCI representing business interests have led to Company Law's Act.

→ Bombay Plan was a major force in India's socialist economic policy.

→ Centre for Survival and Dignity (CSD) has been fighting for tribal rights and welfare

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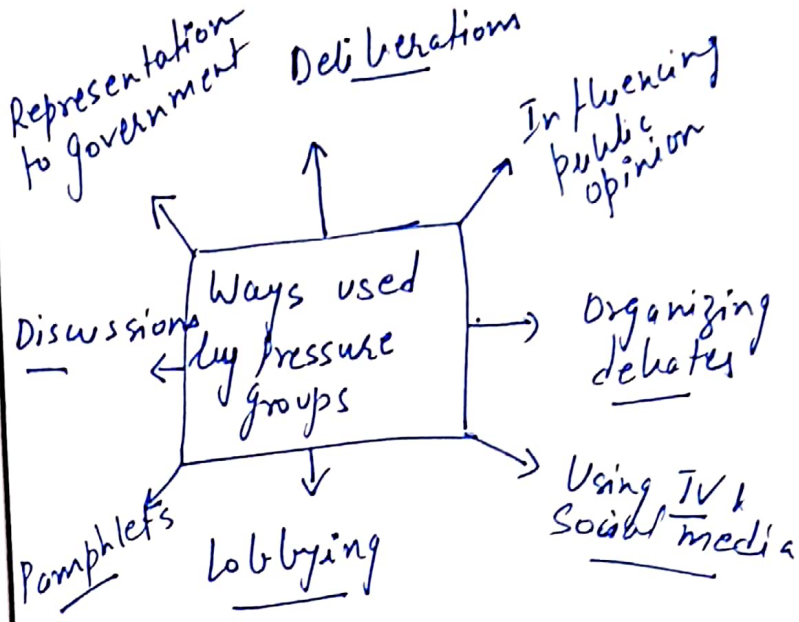

However, they have also resorted to negative actions like
→ Violence (Naxalism)
→ Crony capitalism by bribing officials
→ Strikes & Protests which damage public property
→ Using Money & Muscle power

Pressure Groups are a manifestation of grassroot democracy & should be promoted in a peaceful manner

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12. Highlighting the issues faced by the institutions of local self governance in India, suggest measures that can be taken to improve their effectiveness in the delivery of public goods and services at the grassroot level.

(250 words) 15

Local self government was started through 73rd & 74th Amendment Act. Panchayati Raj was established under 11th Schedule while Municipalities under 12th schedule. They are important for democracy as

→ Citizen Participation
→ Grassroot Democracy (Gram Sabha)
→ Tribal rights (PESA)
→ Women empowerment (33% reservn)
→ Law's made as per local condition

However, they suffer from several issue

Issues

Financial issues

- They depend on state funds for 95% of their income
- Panchayat's revenue collected in only 0.1% of rural per capita income
- Local government reliance on their own resources is only 8%.

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Issues

- Corruption / Misappropriation of Funds
- Lack of expertise amongst elected representative to carry out development projects
- Panchayats suffer from caste bias, eg Panchayat ordered Manoj-Babli killing
- Lack of coordination between block level and panchayat level plans
- States apathy, eg in UP, panchayats have not been devolved powers and they are totally dependent on Government
- Gender inequality, as women sarpanch's husbands rule most of the time
- Gram Sabhas are neglected in law making
- Many Tribals unrepresented in PESA areas

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Measures which can be taken

① ARC recommends
- Capacity Building of Elected Representatives
- Sufficient devolution of power to enable them function as institutions of self government

② Strengthening the State finance Commission on the lines of Central Finance Commission

③ Encouraging citizen participation through awareness

④ Municipalities could be strengthened by giving security of tenure to Mayor and more powers to undertake independent development

By above step, local government can truly serve the vision of decentralized governance/ Jan Bhagidari

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13. The recent amendment to the Right to Information Act, 2005 will weaken the act and undermine the authority of Information Commissioners. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

RTI Act passed in 2005 was a step to fulfill the right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.

Recent Amendment
- → Tenure of Information commission to be decided by the central government
- → condition of service Salaries To be decided by executive
- → Their role has been diminished vis-a-vis Election Commission.

Recent amendment has issues

① Weaken the Act
- Government control might result in delays in appointment of IC
- Give bureaucratic control
- Lack of security of tenure will

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mean that I.C cannot take bold decisions

- Make the information disclosure subject to government approval and government may refuse it as per it's whims.
- Diminishes the Right to expression by non-disclosure of information as per government's will

② Weakens the institution

- Lack of authority by reducing it's status compared to Election Commission means it will lack authority to enforce it's decisions
- In India, considering hierarchy of authority, a superior authority is required to ~~get~~ extract information, which is lost with the amendment
- Also, CIC will become ~~more~~ less independent in it's functioning and be at the mercy of Centre ~~at~~ for funds and manpower

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Will empower authority as well

- Will become more accountable to the Parliament and legislative scrutiny
- Lapse in performance will be a yardstick for the voters to judge government performance
- Smooth functioning as will reduce litigations in cases where government refuses information

Way forward

1. ARC recommends capacity building of PIOs, and regional offices of CIC
2. Parliament Standing Committee reviewing RTI Bill stated the need for an independent CIC
3. RTI should be made constitutional

As ARC has said, RTI is the master key to good governance

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14. Highlight the process of delimitation in India. Also, throw light on the debates surrounding the delimitation exercise in India. **(250 words) 15**

Delimitation is the process of ~~demarka~~ demarcating territories for the purpose of elections to Lok Sabha and State legislatures

Delimitation Exercise

① Delimitation Act, provides for a Delimitation Commission to carry out the task

② It's decisions are final and not subject to judicial scruting

③ The date for Delimitation has been set as per the 2001 census.

④ For delimitation, the State is divided into constituencies. The population of each constituency to the total ~~population~~ seats alloted to it ~~area of State~~ remains the same for ~~all~~ the States for election to ~~Lok Sabha~~. State Assembly.

⑤ For lok Sabha, the total seat alloted to the State on dit's population remains same for all states

⑥ Reservation on the basis of proportion of population

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Debates

① Delimitation is incorrect as :-

- Population has increased drastically since the last census
- The Delimitation exercise does not take into account the changing dynamic like inter and intra state migration
- Differential allocation of seats have led to a culture of politically important and unimportant states.

  eg UP is politically important over Goa or Manipur

- Further, Delimitation has increased the burden on MP's as ~~MP per~~ ~~votno:~~ of voters per MP have increased
- All voters are not given equal ~~attentition~~ attention and has led to decreased voter turnout
- Absence of judicial scrutiny is against the principle of Judicial Review

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(2) Delimitation is correct

- Fixing dates of older census has helped in Population Control and we reached TFR 2.3
- Also, discrimination between states on the basis of population is justified as higher population states require greater resources & even constitution provides for the principle of Differential equality
- Further, ~~capa~~ delimitation on current census will create issues like
  - ↳ Parliament does not have enough capacity to house more members
  - ↳ Will increase disruptions in Assembly
  - ↳ Huge manpower & financial cost for Delimitation

Way forward
- → ARC recommends limited judicial scrutiny in such cases
- → Equal votes for all states as in USA can be considered.

Delimitation exercise should be fair and address concern of all States

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15. Self Help Groups (SHGs) are vehicles of rural development, which help in the upliftment of marginalized groups. Elucidate. Further, mention the constraints faced by SHGs and how they can be addressed. **(250 words) 15**

SHGs are defined as a group of 15-20 people who come together for mutual benefits, be it social or economic.

SHGs as vehicles of rural development

① They promote financial savings through pooling of money, thus encouraging financial inclusion

② Act as a social support in case of shocks like indebtedness

③ Better risk taking as burden is shared amongst members

④ Promotes entrepreneurship in fields of agriculture (agripreneurs) etc.

Upliftment of marginalized sections

① Women empowerment as more than 90% of SHGs are women held.

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② Vulnerable communities pool their money, thus acting as insurance.

③ Increases collective voice of marginalized sections to fight against social injustice

④ Act as a pressure group on Panchayat for their upliftment

⑤ Avail government social welfare schemes for upliftment

Constraints
- Issue of bogus SHGs formed only for the sake of government benefits.
- Increasing incidences of default on loans & rising bank NPAs
- Default by one member impact others
- Lack of expertise leads to underutilized funds
- Caste bias present in rural SHGs

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Certain measures

① ARC recommends capacity building of SHGs so that they could undertake development work

② Bank monitoring of funds for better utilization
eg Bank linkage scheme of RBI & NABARD.

③ Rangarajan Committee recommended Joint Liability Groups to improve financial viability

④ Provision of collateral free ~~democracy~~ loans

⑤ Weeding out bogus SHGs by montinoring and online registration

⑥ Involving civil society and NGOs

SHGs are a major part in achieving SDGs related to poverty reduction and gender equality & should be promoted

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16. With construction of toilets being only one part of the solution for a clean India, it is time that the Swachh Bharat Mission puts more emphasis on the other facets as well. Discuss. **(250 words) 15**

SBM ~~was~~ is a novel initiative to achieve the SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

Construction of toilet is important

- Will provide access to healthy sanitation
- Bring about a change in habit
- Easy to use over open defecation
- Having toilets will force people to use it

As per Rural Sanitation Survey, more than 90% of the the households have access to toilets. Also, more than 15 states have been declared ODF status.

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Need to put emphasis of other facets like

① Usage of toilets
- ~~Unto~~ Toilets are being converted to storehouses
- CAG report also stated that many ODF status figures have inflated, and in reality, people still prefare open defecation

② Relose of timely funds
- As per data, only 28% of SBM fund have been released
- This impacts progress

③ Eradication of manual scavenging
- As per NCSK, one manual scavenger dies every 5 day
- This shows a failure of SBM to focus on this aspect

④ Delivery of services like toilet repair, water connection etc. to make sure that people use it continously

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(5) People needs to be 'nudged' towards toilet use by bringing about behavioural change as stated by Economic Survey

(6) Creation of supporting infrastructure

- As per CPCB, only 1/3rd of sewage Treatment Plants are working.

Focussing on other aspects will lead to
- → Continous usage of toilets
- → Long lasting impact
- → Sustainable waste management
- → Women empowerment through toilet use

Steps
- → Deploying robots like Bandicoot to clean manholes
- → Monitoring of progress of SBM using initiatives like PRAGATI

These steps, while focussing on other aspects will lead to a healthy, ~~sani~~ and clean sanitation

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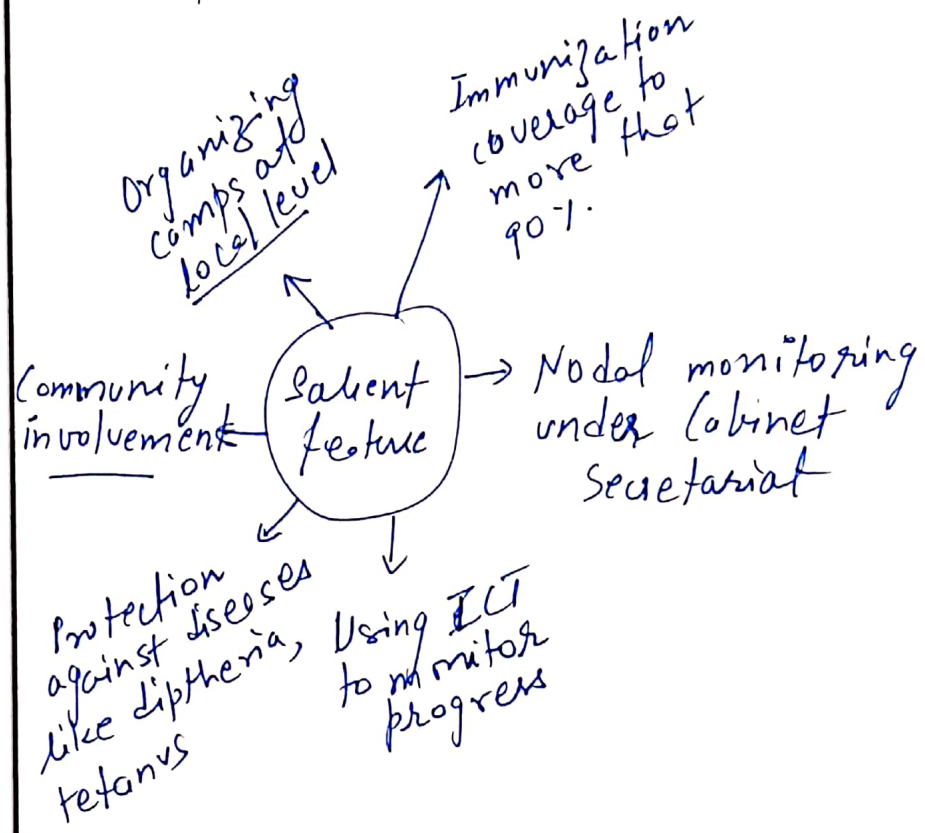
17. Highlight the salient features of Mission Indradhanush. What are the challenges that the mission is facing in its implementation? Suggest measures to address these challenges for progressing towards full immunization coverage. **(250 words) 15**

Mission Indradhanush was launched to improve immunization coverage



However, Mission suffers from several issues –

① Lack of awareness has led to low participation

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(2) Immunization camps are organized at odd hours, like office hours, which reduces turnout

(3) Suffers from financial crunch

(4) Shortage of frontline workers, most states lack proper Primary Healthcare facilities

(5) Lack of data to monitor the prevalence of diseases.

(6) Organization camps are highly crowded, with poor crowd management, which defers many people

(7) Lack of awareness amongst the citizens regarding the importance of immunization due to illiteracy

(8) Improper monitoring at nodal level to check the status of immunization and outcomes

(9) Hospitals & local centres lack patient health records, hence difficulty in tracking their immunization status

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Steps

- Decentralized monitoring through local governments
- Using community health case providers will improve participation
- separate fund to provide finance. An immunization cess could be levied
- Nodal monitoring under PM using PRAGTI
- Awareness campaigns (like DOT campaign on TV) to increase awareness regarding importance of immunization

Above steps would fulfill our SDG 2 and ensure healthy India

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18. Assess the importance of skilling in light of changing economic and demographic structure in India. In this regard, how far has the Skill India Mission succeeded in its mandate. **(250 words) 15**

Skilling means increasing the capacity of people to take up better paying jobs.

Importance of skilling

(1) Changing economic structure

- Growing economy (expected to be $ 5trillion) requires skilled youth to sustain the growth
  - Several Economic Surveys has emphasized on the importance of skilling
- Growing fields like AI, Big Data etc requires skilled youth to cope up
- Growing globalization requires skilling to compete with foreign nations
- Skilling is important for marginalized sections like women, else it will create inequality
- Skilling is required to cope with Automation

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(2) Changing Demography

- Youth bulge needs skilling so that they can take up jobs. Else demographic dividend would turn in demographic ~~dividend~~ burden
- Skilling is required to address the changing social structure like emigration and brain drain.

  It is also required to check inter state and intra state migration
- Further, skilling is required to improve the condition of slums, where people live in poverty and there are high rates of crime
- Skilling is also required to ensure meaningful employment for the old age population which is expected to increase to 173 million as per Agewell Foundation

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Skill India has succeeded

- Number of ITIs have ~~indu~~ increased by 5 times
- Over 19 lakh have been trained under PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

Skill India has failed

- As per Sharada Committe, only 8% trained under NSDC got placements
- As per PFLS, 6.1% unemployment rate
- Recently, Tech Mahindra CEO commented that 90% IT graduates not employable
- Lack of industry-academia collaboration
- ITIs are of poor quality, low teacher ratio, no private participation

Skill India is necessary reap benefits of demographic dividend and should be improved through
- → Industry collaboration
- → Vocational training
- → Better courses

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19. What according to you are the reasons that motivated India to create a dedicated Indo-Pacific division in the MEA recently? Also, highlight the challenges for India in the Indo-Pacific region. **(250 words) 15**

Indo Pacific ~~counta~~ regions includes countries bordering Indian and Pacific Oceans and has gained new traction due to changing geo-economic dynamics.

Reasons for dedicated Indopacific division

① Security Concerns
- Threat from China
- New emerging challenges in the form of Pakistan increasing ~~mil~~ naval presence, or growing North korean threat
- Threats from rising terrorism like Saudi Wahabism
- Threats like sea piracy

② Growing trade
- More that 80% of oil trades pass through Indian ocean chokepoints.

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- Indian investments in the region like ONGC in Vietnam

(3) Growing Regional Blocks
- Quad grouping of USA, India, Japan & Australia
- RCEP, ASEAN

(4) Rising Western Interest
- USA renamed its Pacific Command as INDO-PACOM and ~~requested~~ looks at India ~~to p~~ as a major partner

(5) Growing Indian interests like "Act East Policy", "Asia Africa Growth Corridor", "Chabhar port".

Further, India has been demanding entry to ~~APEC~~ APEC

(6) New fields of interest like Blue Economy, energy security as there are huge oil deposits, polymetallic nodules etc

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Challenges

- Mutual distrust in the region like India-Pak, India-China
- The region is still not fully integrated, eg disputes between India and ASEAN in RCEP over services trade
- China's economic might and debt trap diplomacy
- Recent fallouts like India-Maldives.
- No coherent policy on the future of Indo Pacific. Eg while Australia is against China's interference in the region, it remains heavily dependent on China for trade

Way forward

- India should pursue soft power diplomacy & Pancheel priciples
- Use 2+2 mechanism with USA & Japan for better coordination

Indo-Pacific heralds a new era of dominance

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20. For SCO to become a successful regional grouping, it has to overcome bilateral differences between its members and their respective geopolitical calculations. Comment. Also, discuss the role that SCO can play in enhancing India's interest in the Eurasian region. **(250 words) 15**

SCO is a political-military grouping of nations like → India
→ China
→ Pakistan
→ Russia
→ Central Asian like Kazakhstan

Bilateral differences

↳ India-China, like Doklam
↳ India-Pakistan ~~like~~ over terrorism
↳ India Russia, over Russia's growing inclination to China

Overcoming differences is needed

1. Lead to better co-ordination between nations
2. Better trade opportunities
3. Regional peace
4. Better cooperation on terrorism using bodies like RATS.

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⑤ Mutual trust between India and Pakistan, china

⑥ Lead to joint actions and put forward regional issues in the UN to counter Western Hegemony

SCO's role in enhancing Indian interests in Eurasia

Positive role

- Lead to regional stability ~~thus~~ which has a spillover on ~~kashmir~~ trade
- Open up Eurasian economies necessary for our energy security
- Complement our initiatives like INSTC and Ashgabat agreement
- Counter Chinese dominance
- Eurasian economies provide huge potential for services & agricultural export
- Areas like Kazakhastan are rich in minerals needed for our manufacturing sector

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Negative role

- India may loose strategic autonomy and have to abide by SCO directions
- Bilateral disputes can impact Indian investment in the region
- SCO has an imbalance of Power, as China & Russia are permanent UN members while rest are non-permanent
- China's dominance may impact India's role in Eurasia
- SCO will also fail in providing easy entry to Eurasia countries as they are land locked

SCO has huge potential to help us expand our scope in Eurasian region and requires trust-building & mutual cooperation.

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